Banker tells of money trail from Dichaves to Erap

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US drops RP from list of loan beneficiaries

By Rocky Nazareno *in Manila* **and Joel B. Escovilla** *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE COUNTRY has been removed from a list of beneficiaries of a US commodity loan program after P1.5 billion of the proceeds of the program was diverted to municipal mayors.

US/A13

GMA says anti-US protests all rhetoric

'Rehashed debate on Vietnam'

By Tony S. Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

CHICAGO—Maintaining her hawkish stance, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the protests at home against the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 were "all rhetoric" as she continued to defend her all-out support for the US-led war on terrorism.

Speaking Sunday before members of the Filipino community of Chicago that gathered at the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, the President said her administration was committed to wiping out terrorism "wherever it is, whatever form it takes."

Her fighting words registered a sharp contrast to the theme of the Mass celebrated for the Filipino community here by the Most Rev. Raymond E. Goedard, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Peace was the theme of the Mass, and it was focused on Jesus' words, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

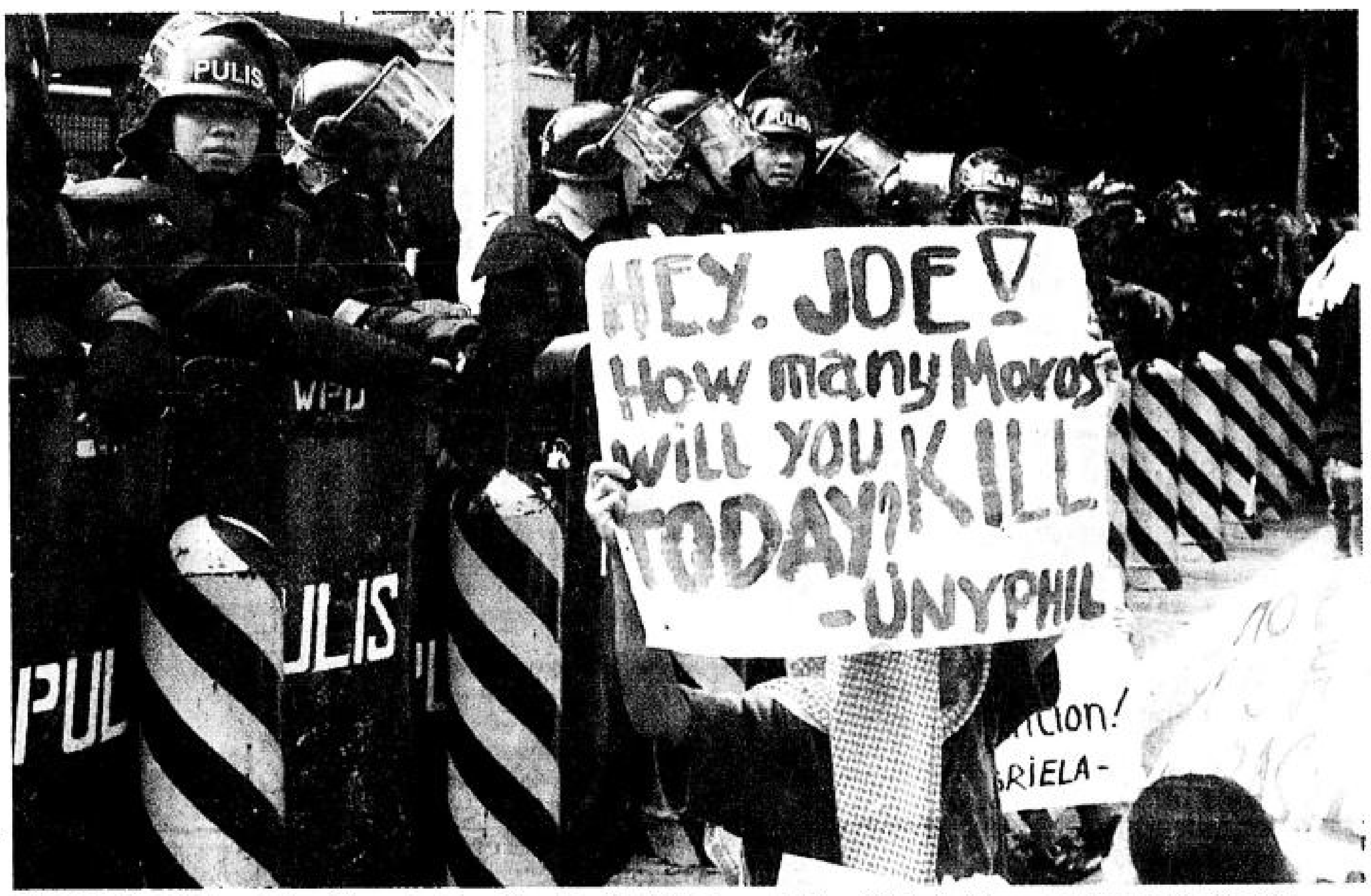
The President said the protests did not surprise her anymore because they were mere rehashed issues "reminiscent of the old bases debate and the debate on Vietnam that resurfaced again."

"I know this (allowing US troops in Mindanao) is a politically risky action," she said, adding that the Philippine military needed US expertise because "this will help us go the last mile in destroying the Abu Sayyaf and having peace at last."

In Manila, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged Ms Macapagal to address a joint session of the Philippine Congress and inform lawmakers and the people "the real score about the deployment of US military forces in Western Mindanao as part of the Balikatan exercise."

"To say the least, it looks funny to me that the President is briefing foreign audiences on what is happening to the country, but doesn't make any effort to inform the people through their elected representatives on the conditions in Mindanao right now," Pimentel said at

GMA/A14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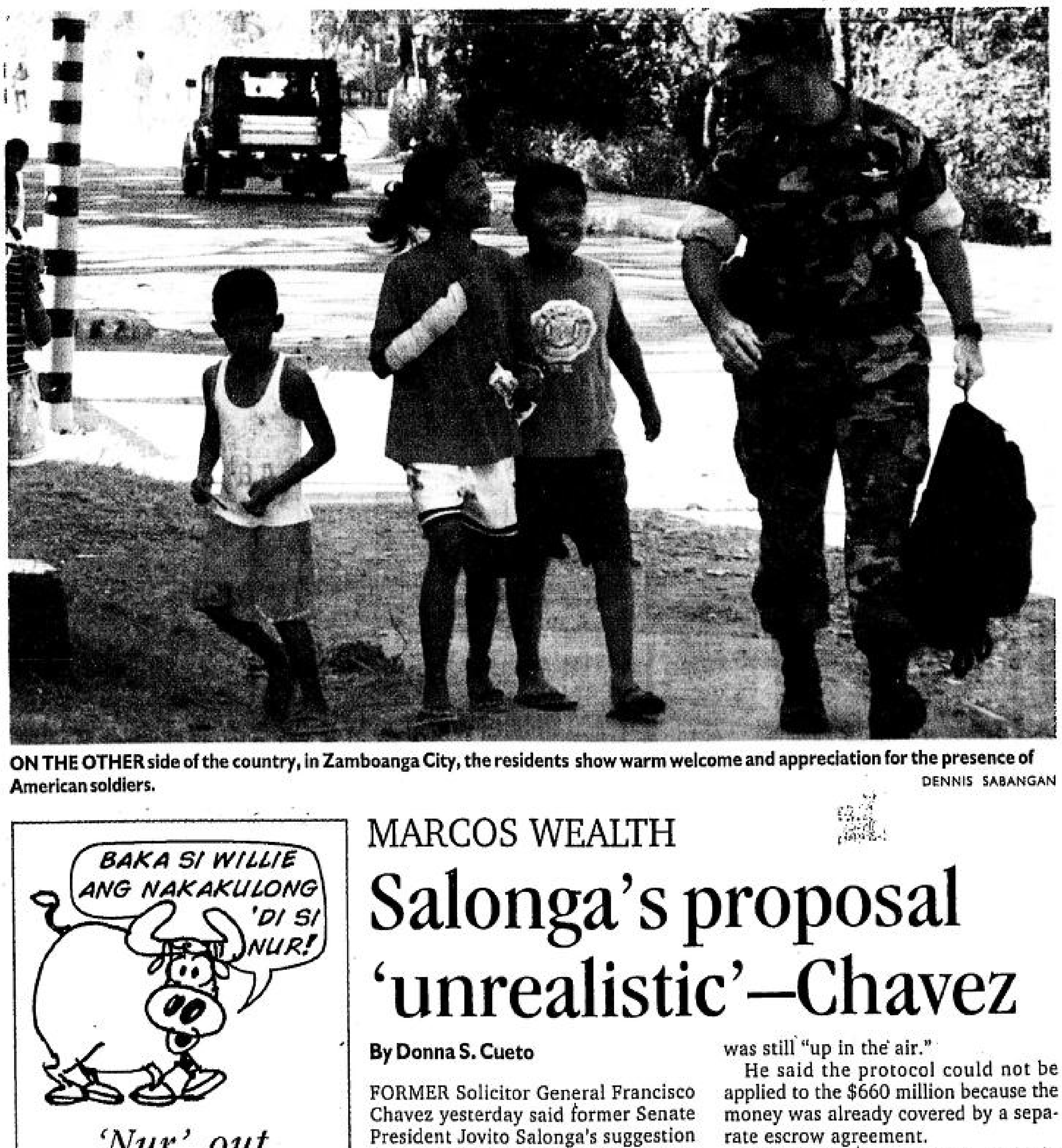
GRIELA-

STAYING alive in the middle of Roxas Boulevard fronting the US Embassy during a "die-in" of Bayan members protesting the presence of US troops; the Western Police District anti-riot cops keep order.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



ON THE OTHER side of the country, in Zamboanga City, the residents show warm welcome and appreciation for the presence of American soldiers.
DENNIS SABANGAN

JDV takes hands-off position on Desierto

By Christine Avendaño

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has apparently taken a hands-off stance in the impeachment dilemma facing the House of Representatives this week.

In a statement issued yesterday, he said he was leaving it up to the House members to vote according to their conscience on the first impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

"Each vote rests solely on the individual member's appreciation of the evidence, guided only by the lamp of conscience, which the complainant has presented to support the charge of bribery against the Ombudsman," De Venecia said.

But Ernesto Francisco Jr., the lawyer who filed the first complaint, wondered how the congressmen could vote on the basis of their appreciation of the evidence when he said he was "not given the chance to present" it.

The House justice committee had found the first complaint to be insufficient in substance but failed to call Francisco to testify.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno's reaction to De Venecia's statement was lukewarm. Voting in the House should always be according to one's conscience, he said, "and I hope this would be the real case" with the complaint against Desierto.

JDV/A14

Note shows Abu mad at missing TV journalist

By Noralyn Mustafa and Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau* **and Martin Marfil**

CAMP CABUNBATA, Isabela City—A note found by Scout Rangers appears to indicate that the Abu Sayyaf is hopping mad at journalist Arlyn de la Cruz and is now holding her hostage.

She has been reported missing since Jan. 19. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has ordered the military to search for her.

Though the military yesterday classified De la Cruz as a missing person and not a kidnap victim, Scout Rangers operating here said otherwise.

They said the Abu Sayyaf was very mad at De la Cruz because the outlaws were not given their share of a reported $20,000 that De la Cruz allegedly received from a US television network that bought the video interview and footage of American Gracia and Martin Burnham who are held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf.

NOTE/A14

Japan sex slave: Gang-raped at 14, dead at 74

By Christine Herrera

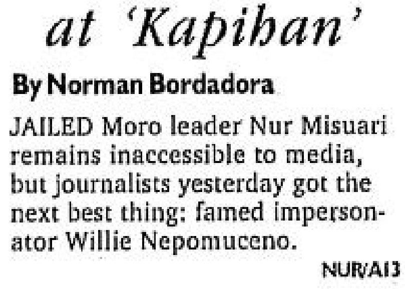
ANOTHER Filipino "comfort woman" has died without getting justice from the Japanese government.

Pacita Suclan Santillan, 74, was buried yesterday in Pandan, Antique, with no relief from her bitter past. She died of kidney failure on Jan. 20.

At 14, Santillan was gang-raped and used as a sex slave by Japanese soldiers during World War II. She saw the brutal murder of her mother and siblings at the hands of the same soldiers.

These and other traumas made her decide against ever marrying. She never told a soul about her suffering. Having decided to keep her secrets, she was ruled by anger and grief—until she

JAPAN/A13


BAKA SI WILLIE ANG NAKAKULONG 'DI SI NUR!

'Nur' out of jail, bares all at 'Kapihan'

By Norman Bordadora

JAILED Moro leader Nur Misuari remains inaccessible to media, but journalists yesterday got the next best thing: famed impersonator Willie Nepomuceno.

NUR/A13

MARCOS WEALTH

Salonga's proposal 'unrealistic'—Chavez

By Donna S. Cueto

FORMER Solicitor General Francisco Chavez yesterday said former Senate President Jovito Salonga's suggestion for speeding up government's acquisition of the $660 million in Marcos Swiss deposits was "unrealistic."

Salonga said the government could get hold of the funds by bypassing the country's inefficient judicial system and by availing itself of an "additional protocol" to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Chavez, who filed the original forfeiture case in 1991, said that the Salonga proposal would only further delay the proceedings as the protocol was still "up in the air."

He said the protocol could not be applied to the $660 million because the money was already covered by a separate escrow agreement.

But Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran expressed support for Salonga's proposal.

"All measures must be exhausted so that the Marcos ill-gotten wealth is returned to the Filipino people and the victims of the human rights violations are given the indemnification and the justice that they have long been denied," Beltran said in a statement.

Salonga came up with his proposal after the Sandiganbayan nullified its September 2000 ruling that forfeited in

SALONGA'S/A14

REUTERS

PRESIDENT Macapagal attends Mass for peace at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Chicago. She's due to arrive today.

Second FRONT PAGE

PLUNDER TRIAL

Banker tells of money trail to Erap

By Volt Contreras

A BANK officer yesterday testified how P189.7 million in alleged commissions to jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada was moved from the private accounts of businessman Jaime Dichaves to the "Jose Velarde" account allegedly owned by Estrada.

Ma. Socorro Yolanda de Leon, 45, senior manager of the Cubao-Araneta branch of the then Far East Bank & Trust Co., was the fourth witness to be called by the prosecution in the Estrada plunder trial.

De Leon now works at the Bank of the Philippine Islands, which acquired FEBTC in April 2000.

During direct examination by prosecutor Richard Fudallon, De Leon confirmed the bank's records of the following transactions between Dichaves and the FEBTC branch that she headed:

ESTRADA

DICHAVES

- On Nov. 5, 1999, Dichaves deposited an International Exchange Bank check worth P189.7 million in his savings account (No. 0107-38639-9).
- On Nov. 9, after the check cleared, the P189.7 million was "auto-transferred" to Dichaves' current account (No. 0007-05558-7).
- Drawing from his current account, Dichaves then issued FEBTC Check No. 3165579 on the same day, Nov. 9.
- Written on the back of the check, De Leon recalled, was Account No. 160-625015, the account to which the check was to be deposited.

De Leon could not say who owned Account No. 160-625015 or the bank where it was located, but prosecutors said in an earlier pleading that it was the Jose Velarde account at Equitable PCIBank.

The bank officer said Dichaves opened his savings and current accounts at FEBTC-Cubao in June 1998. Both were joint accounts of Dichaves and his wife, Abby.

By March 31, 2000, both accounts had been closed, De Leon said.

In earlier testimony, Belle Corp. vice president Willie Ng Ocier had testified that the P189.7-million I-Bank check represented the commission allegedly demanded by Estrada from the sale of the gaming company's shares to the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

Ocier claimed to have personally delivered the check to Dichaves, his second cousin, shortly after the stock transactions of October 1999.

De Leon described Dichaves as "one of my valued clients." She said she had had dealings with Dichaves during an earlier stint with Metrobank.

The Sandiganbayan last week ordered the arrest of Dichaves, adding him to the list of respondents in the Estrada plunder case.

Dichaves, however, fled the country only a few days before Estrada was forced out of Malacañang during the four-day second Edsa people power uprising.

Also yesterday, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto told the court that prosecutors would present a total of around 40 witnesses in the plunder trial.

Estrada lawyer Serafin Cuevas, a former justice secretary, said the defense panel was considering presenting only from five to 10 witnesses.

Pinatubo ambush mystery deepens

By TJ Burgonio

THE MYSTERY behind last week's ambush of two foreigners on Mt. Pinatubo deepened after police established that the slain American had been shot at close range, contrary to the claim of his German companion that they were fired upon from 200 meters away.

American Brian Thomas Smith suffered three gunshot wounds, including one in the nape that had gunpowder "tattoos" around it, police officials said yesterday, citing autopsy findings.

"That means he was shot at close range," said Chief Supt. Jose Marlowe Pedregoza, director of the Philippine National Police crime laboratory.

An investigator said gunpowder tattoos around a wound indicate the victim was shot from within two feet.

Police probers were puzzled by the findings that contradict the claim of Smith's German friend, Siegfried Wittman, that they had been shot at by a "black man" from some 200 meters away.

"It runs counter to Wittman's statement," said a police official who asked not to be named.

Wittman—whom police initially tagged as a suspect in the shooting—tested negative for powder burns and checked out of the Angeles University Foundation Hospital in Angeles City yesterday after treatment for leg wounds, the official said.

Pedregoza of the crime lab said gunpowder burns could disappear after 48 hours. Wittman was rescued 72 hours after he and Smith were allegedly ambushed on Wednesday.

Police said Wittman was "not yet off the hook," however.

"That Wittman did not have gunpowder residue does not mean he's been dropped from the list of suspects," said Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director, on Monday.

Rafanan declined to say why Wittman was still considered a suspect.

An INQUIRER source at Camp Olivas said police were dwelling on the "latest findings on Smith's body." The source did not elaborate. ***With Tonette Orejas, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Coast Guard denies report of missing boat

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard has denied reports that up to 70 persons are missing in the sinking of a motor launch in southern Philippine waters last week, but admitted it was looking for survivors from two sinkings that may have claimed 40 lives.

Lt. Armand Balilo, PCG spokesperson, said the Coast Guard is looking for only 40 passengers and crewmembers of the Ml Sugar Diane-Z and the Ml Sea Horse, which both sank on Jan. 26 off the Zamboanga peninsula.

PCG rescue teams recovered the body of the first confirmed fatality in the mishaps, Narding Tumakas of Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur, who was a passenger on the Sea Horse.

Tumakas' body had drifted to Saluag Island, Tawi-Tawi and was buried there by residents on Sunday.

Three passengers of the Sea Horse are still missing, while nine others were rescued off Sipangkot, Andulingan and Bongao towns in Tawi-Tawi.

The Sea Horse sank while en route to Pangutaran Island from Zamboanga City, Balilo said, when its hull cracked after it was battered by huge waves.

Balilo said Navy boats and Air Force planes have joined the search for the missing passengers, particularly the 37 from the Sugar Diane-Z.

The motor launch, which was carrying 700 sacks of copra, left Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi for Zamboanga City at 6 a.m. on Jan. 26.

At around 2 a.m..the following day, its crew radioed for help saying it developed engine trouble some 50 nautical miles off Pangutaran Island in the Sulu archipelago.

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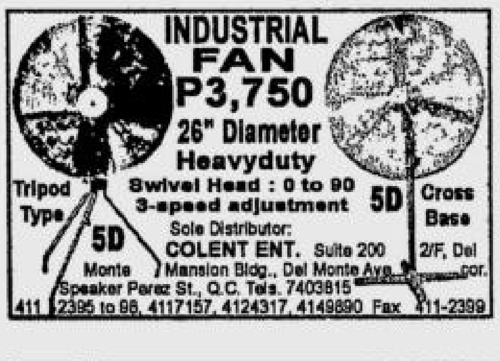
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BLOATING GOV'T DEBTS

Peace bonds draw flak from beneficiaries

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
Contributor

THE CONTROVERSIAL "Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates" or PEACe Bonds have continued to draw flak even from the civil society groups that are supposed to benefit from it.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition said that far from being beneficial to the government, the PEACe Bonds have widened the national debt—to the detriment of the poor taxpayers who are supposed to benefit from the flotation.

Maria Teresa Diokno-Pascual, FDC president, said that while there was no doubt about the sincerity of Code-NGO to help fight poverty, the manner by which the pro-poor nongovernmental organization acquired its endowment fund was not justified.

According to Code-NGO, the Peace Foundation, the group that will manage the P1.4-billion fund, will release P100 million every year to fund poverty alleviation projects.

This amount "is miniscule" compared to the P2.5 billion the government has to set aside each year for interest payments on the P35-billion PEACe bonds, the FDC said.

Diokno-Pascual warned the controversy could erode the credibility not only of the government agencies involved but of civil society groups as well.

"As civil society, we aspire to present by our example an alternative to a system we have long found to be repulsive and completely disadvantageous to our people," Diokno-Pascual said.

In this case, she said, it was clear rules were bent and influence was used to allow Code-NGO to get its funds.

The opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino yesterday charged Code-NGO officials with stepping up a multimillion-peso media campaign to draw public attention away from the controversy surrounding its fund acquisition.

Citing unimpeachable sources, PMP spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla said Code-NGO officials have met with well-known public relations personalities with reputations for crisis management PR who could overturn the adverse public reaction to the PEACe Bonds.

Remulla said the strategy of the media blitz is to rake up past issues or fabricate new ones against members of Congress actively involved in the probe of the controversy.

He identified the targets of Code-NGO's media campaign as Senators John Osmeña, finance committee chair investigating the bond issue; Tessie Aquino-Oreta, whose resolution led to the investigation, and Sergio Osmeña III, who thoroughly scrutinized the issue at last week's hearing.

A separate campaign is being planned for members of the House, especially against the group of minority leader Carlos Padilla, which has shown interest in investigating how the taxpayers would have to repay the P35-billion bond after 10 years for the P10-billion flotation that netted Code-NGO P1.4 billion in commissions.

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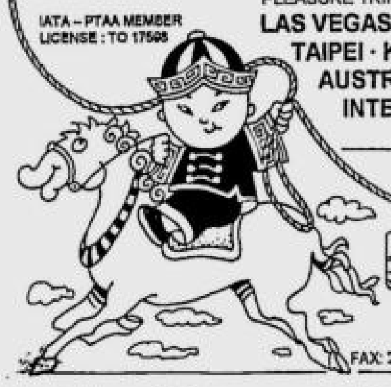

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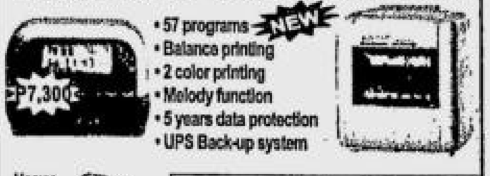

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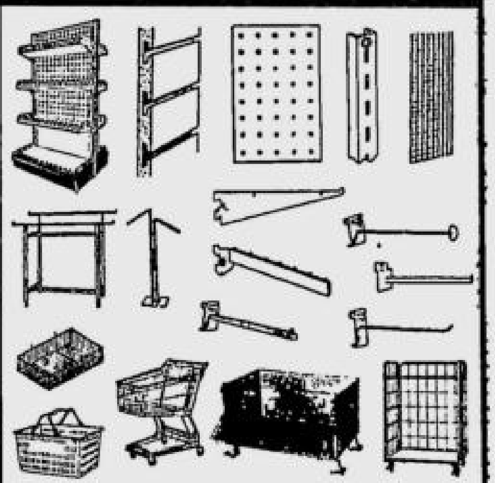

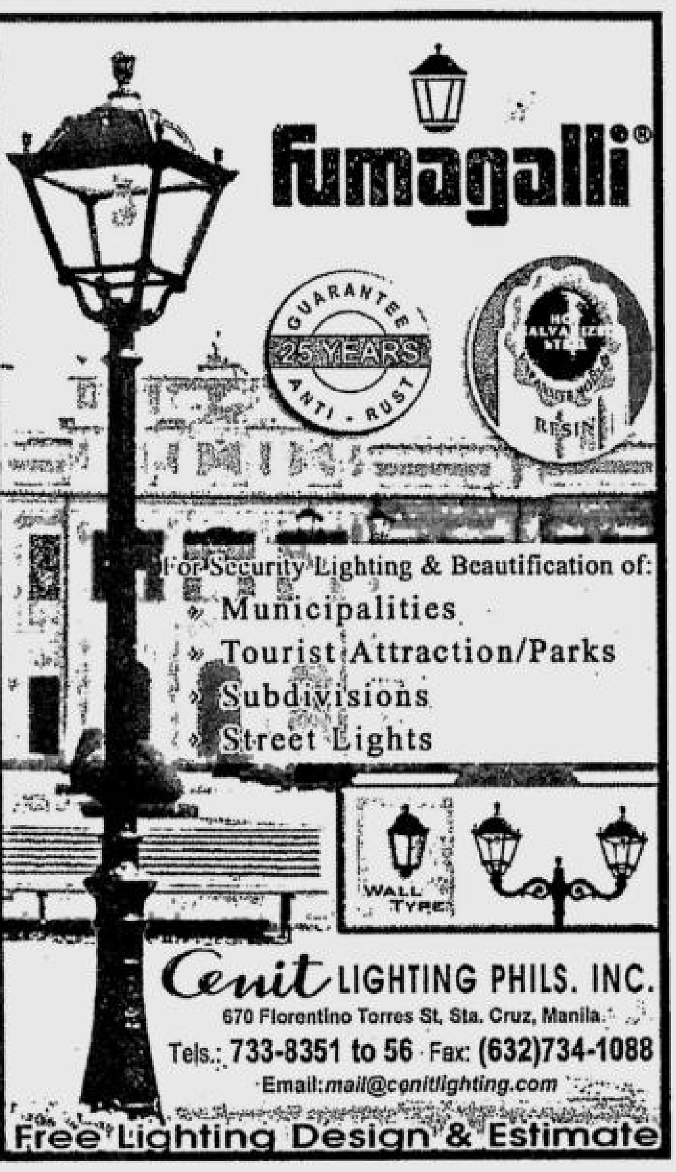

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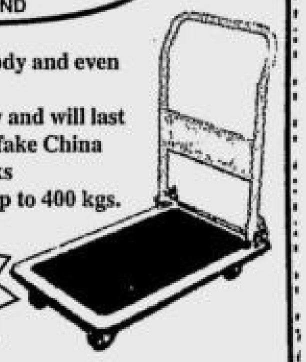

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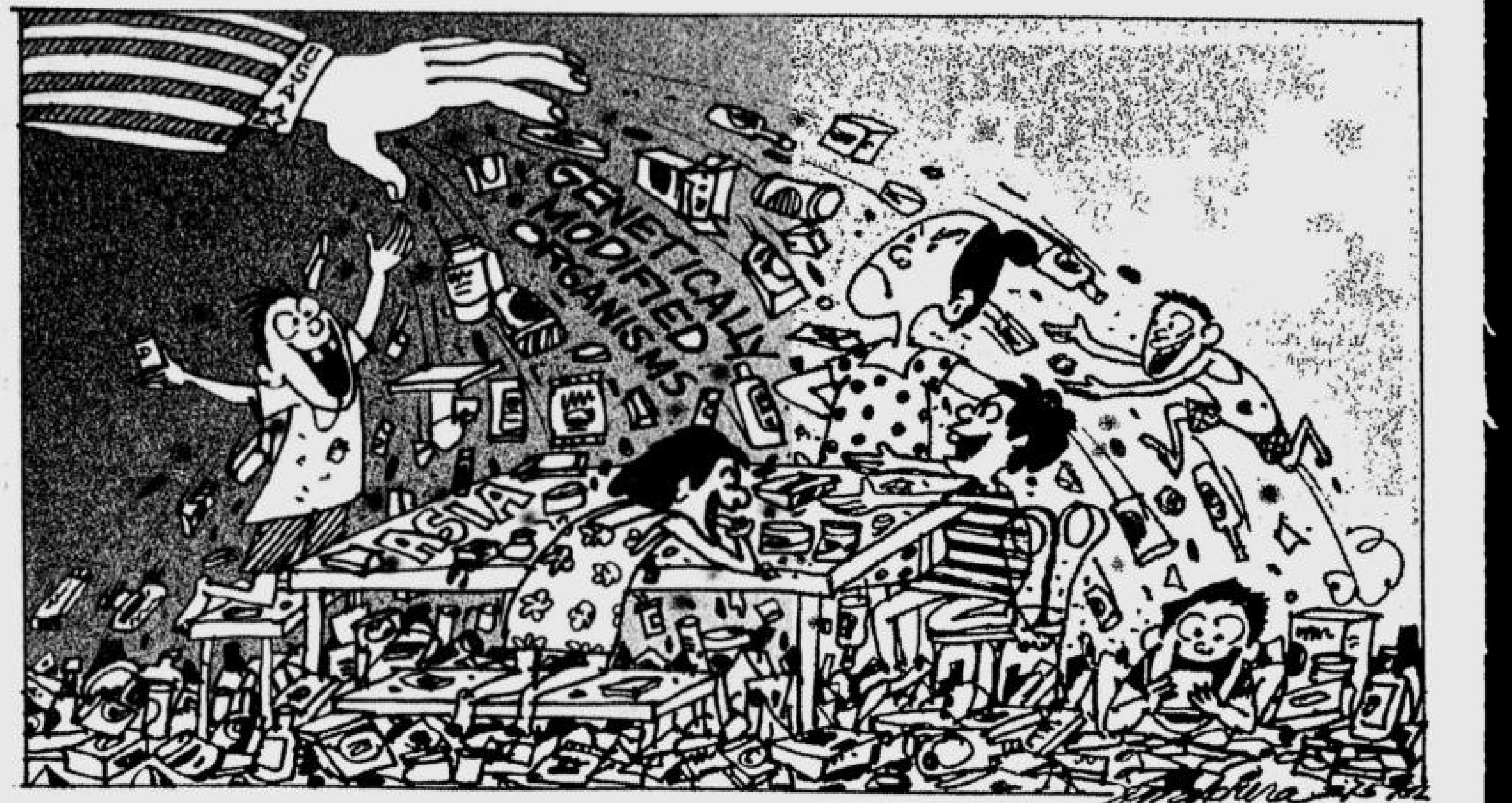

Buy Filipino

EDITORIAL

BY THIS time most newspaper readers and Internet browsers should have read about how Juan de la Cruz spends his day: He wakes up at 6 a.m. to an alarm clock made in China, brushes his teeth with toothpaste made in Indonesia and takes a bath using soap and shampoo in Malaysia.

For breakfast, he eats cereal with milk made in Australia, drinks coffee made in Colombia and finishes the meal with an apple from New Zealand. He dresses up in slacks made in the United States, a long-sleeved shirt made in India, a tie made in France and shoes made in Switzerland. Then he drives off in his father's Japanese-made car. And Juan de la Cruz is looking for a job.

An alternative story run in a newspaper column and on the Internet has a different version: Juan de la Cruz uses or wears things made in the Philippines or foreign brands manufactured locally under a franchise.

Businessman Francis Chua likes to tell the Juan de la Cruz story to promote the Buy Pinoy Movement. He says, "We want everybody to realize that we have to put some effort in patronizing our own products." He adds that he is not urging Filipinos to buy only local products. But if we used to buy only imported products before, now we could perhaps allocate 20 percent or more of our budgets to local products, he says.

In the year 2000, the total value of imports of consumer goods was $2.5 billion or P110.4 billion computed on the basis of the exchange rate at the time. Last year, from January to November, the value of imported consumer goods was $2.29 billion or P116.7 billion based on the rate of exchange prevailing at the time.

If we could get Filipinos to substitute locally produced goods for even only 20 percent of the imported consumer goods, it would be a big help to the economy. Filipino producers would sell more and local industry and trade would get some stimulus. More factories and shops would open and more Filipinos would have jobs. And we can help conserve the country's dollars and increase our dollar reserves.

Admittedly, the Buy Filipino campaign is not popular even at this time of economic hardship. Blame globalization which has made imported goods cheaper. Blame our colonial mentality. Filipino consumers think that only imported goods are of good quality. They value foreign brands greatly, especially American and European brands. And so they buy "American" shoes, for instance, in the United States, and "Italian" shirts in Italy. After returning to Manila, upon closer inspection, many of them find out that the supposedly "Made in the USA" shoes were "Made in the Philippines." Or the "Italian" shirt was actually made in Thailand, but this information is hidden in small, almost unreadable type in the label.

We have to get rid of our colonial mentality and begin having confidence in the ability of our fellow Filipinos to produce quality goods. If we look hard enough, we will find that we can substitute made in the Philippines products, which cost less, for certain imported goods. Philippine mangoes are more luscious than peaches. Our furniture, designer shoes and garments can compare favorably in quality with imported furniture, shoes and garments.

These are just some examples.

The Buy Pinoy Movement is not new. In the late 1930s domestic trade was enhanced by the "Buy Philippines" slogan of the National Economic Protectionism Association. For one thing, the Nepa popularized the use of native products like the barong Tagalog for men and the Balintawak dress for women. Nowadays, the barong Tagalog is still popular for formal, business and casual wear for men but the Balintawak is now used only for formal social and cultural occasions.

The Nepa was established in November 1934 by nationalist businessmen to protect Filipino products against foreign products. We do not propose a return to protectionism, but we do urge that we give more attention to Philippine-made products and buy more of them to give a much-needed boost to domestic trade in particular and to the economy in general.

The Buy Pinoy Movement needs the support of all sectors—the business community, civil society, civic groups, the church, the schools and universities and the media—to succeed in changing the buying habits of the people. If Thailand and Malaysia, and even highly developed countries like Japan, Australia and the United States promote and patronize their own products within their territory, why can't we?

A strange interview with Nur Misuari

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AS PROMISED, yesterday's Kapihan sa Manila had Nur Musuari as the lone guest—or at least somebody who looked and talked like him. The media have been denied access to Misuari who is under detention in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, so we thought we should satisfy media's hunger to interview him. Instead of being grateful for the opportunity to talk to media, however, the former ARMM governor had only harsh words for them.

"I strongly protest media's portrayal of me as a dangerous man," he said. "You even compare me to Erap. But the only thing that Erap and I have in common is that we have many wives. Erap is greedy; I am not. He owns real estate in Baguio, Manila, Wack Wack, Makati, Tagaytay, etc. Me, the only real estate I want to own is Mindanao. Unlike this government waging war against the Muslims, I want peace—a piece of Mindanao.

"They say I am a terrorist. How can I be a terrorist when I am the one, you know, who is being terrorized."

"How do you spend your time in your detention cell in Sta. Rosa?" Misuari was asked.

"The same way I did when I was governor of ARMM," he replied.

"And what was that?"

"Doing nothing."

Here are some more excerpts from the Kapihan interview:

"What can you say about President Macapagal's frequent trips abroad?"

"It's a shame because she always travels with a huge carry-on baggage."

"What carry-on baggage is that?"

"Mike Arroyo, who else?"

"Mr. Misuari, what can you say about the presence of American troops in Mindanao?"

"The more Americans, the better for the Abu Sayyaf."

"What do you mean?"

"The more Americans, the more kidnap victims."

"The Abu Sayyaf has been kidnapping not only foreigners but also Filipinos. Why also Filipinos?"

"Because the Abu Sayyaf, you know, is actually patriotic. It has a nationalistic policy, you know."

"What policy?"

"Filipino First."

"What about the Balikatan war exercises?"

"Well, as long as the exercises, you know, are limited to bending, stretching or push-ups, that's okay with me."

"What can you say about President Bush as a leader?"

"I think Bush, you know, is under the illusion, you know, that he can be a world leader. He may be America's leader, but not of the world, you know. Americans should be very careful of a different kind of Bush, you know, especially the Americans in Mindanao."

"What kind of Bush must the Americans in Mindanao be careful of?"

"Ambush."

"What can you say about President Macapagal as a leader?"

"You know, as a leader I think she is unfair. You know, when Erap was detained in Sta. Rosa, she, you know, visited him. Me, I have been detained in the same place for more than a month now, you know. And, you know, she still has not visited me."

"Why do you think she does not visit you?"

"You know, I really don't know."

"If the President visits you, what would you do?"

"I'd fall on my knees."

"Fall on your knees? Why?"

"So we could see eye to eye."

"Reports said you escaped to Malaysia as a terrorist. Is this true?"

"No, that is not true. You know, that was a typographical error. I went there, you know, not as a terrorist but as a tourist."

"There is already a new governor in the ARMM. Why did you come back to the Philippines when they don't want you anymore?"

"No, of course not. My constituents, you know, still want me, Filipinos, you know, still want me. Gen. Angelo Reyes, himself, you know, said that I am the most wanted man in the Philippines."

"Before you became ARMM governor, you said you wanted the people of Mindanao to become rich, but it seems it is you who became rich."

"Well, you know, I tried to lead by example. I wanted to show that if I can be rich, they too can be rich."

"Do you still have plenty of followers?"

"Oh yes, a lot of people are following me, you know. In fact, until I was captured, there was a, you know, a massive manhunt for me."

"Is the government giving in to your demand for a cell phone?"

"No and, you know, I don't know why. They're limiting me to a landline because, you know, according to them, a cell phone seems luxurious, you know. But I'm in a cell, so my phone ought to be a cell phone."

"Why won't they transfer you to Veterans Hospital?"

"You know, I don't know. Isn't that discrimination? Erap has more rights than I. But whatever Erap has done to the country, you know, I have also done—maybe even more."

Don't you, dear reader, find this exchange strange?

Yes? Well you know, it's not strange at all because, you know, that was comedian Willie Nep masquerading as Nur. You know.

Gift-bearers

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER what Jovito Salonga told me when he heard Ferdinand Marcos declare martial law on TV 30 years ago. Marcos said he was putting the country under martial law because things had gotten out of hand. Communists and anarchists roamed abroad, and had gotten bold enough to bomb parts of Greater Manila. To save the Republic and drive its enemies to the ground, he was declaring a state of emergency.

He wondered, Salonga recalled, when the emergency would end. But he was at least comforted by the thought that since it was an emergency, the response would be temporary one. Then came the clincher. Marcos went on to say he was declaring martial law not just to meet the dire threat posed by the terrorists but also to meet the direr threat of an unjust society. That society was in the hands of the oligarchs, martial law would free it from them.

When he heard that, Salonga said, he was chilled to the bone. A martial law to meet an emergency was a temporary one. But a martial law to meet poverty and inequality was a permanent one. That in fact was what martial law turned out to be.

That was what I felt, too, when I heard the American officials say their military presence in this country would not just serve to fight terrorism, it would serve to fight poverty—I was chilled to the bone. A contingent of American troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf is a temporary one. A contingent of American troops to help fight poverty is a permanent one. Which is what it will turn out to be.

That in fact is the real equation. It is **not**, "Whom do you prefer, the Americans or the terrorists?" That is a spurious question, which is not unlike asking, "Which do you prefer, good or bad?" The real question is, "Which do you prefer, martial law or the evil Marcos pointed to?" Or in this case, "Which do you prefer, renewed American presence or the evil the Americans point to?"

In Marcos' case, both justifications were wrong. The emergency was largely something he conjured. True enough, there were pockets of terrorism—not all the bombings were his handiwork. But as a solution to it, martial law was like killing a fly on a wall with a bazooka. Even less justified was the idea that martial law would reform society. Truly, society was in the hands of the oligarchs. He was one of them. Soon, he would be the biggest oligarch of all.

It's the same case here. Both justifications are wrong.

Terrorism is real, no doubt about that, but not so the threat coming from the South. The Abu Sayyaf is a small force, one that, as the Armed Forces of the Philippines showed when it allowed them to escape at Lamitan, is well within local capabilities to handle. It's just a question of will. The point is to pressure the AFP to do something about them, on pain of abolition, not to bring in foreign troops.

And that presumes the Abu Sayyaf is really a terrorist group and not a mere kidnap gang. You call all kidnap gangs that extend their prey to foreign nationals and murder some of them in barbaric ways terrorists, and you are going to have one very messed-up world. That would justify American intervention in Russia. Does it take George Bush depicting this country as a haven for terrorists, and a potential Afghanistan, to wake our legislators up to the monumental dangers of that notion? The senators complain that the American troops here still have no clear parameters. But of course they do. It was spelled out by Bush very clearly. Whenever America perceives a country to be "timid against terrorists," terrorists now including kidnappers, America would feel free to storm into that nation. And remain there for as long as it likes.

The second justification, which is that American military presence here will help fight poverty, is worse. The Americans want to help us fight poverty, they can begin by cleaning up the toxic wastes they left behind. That is estimated to cost billions of dollars. Sen. Loren Legarda wrote me some months ago to say that she has been busy pushing for programs to solve the problem of toxic waste. A laudable effort, but she misses the point. Why should we exert ourselves mightily to get something that is due us legally and morally? American law requires the United States to clean up the wastes it leaves behind, whether its bases are inside or outside US territory.

But far more than that, there is the kind of help the Americans are proffering. Defenders of the US troops like to put the problem in this way: How can anyone in his right mind think to refuse help, particularly from a powerful country? The answer is simple: Because anyone in his right mind will know that help is no help at all. John Gibson says it is understandable that we should be suspicious of American presence here given its history of meddling in this country. He should be forgiven the understatement for he has been here only for five years.

That "meddling" is simply the one biggest factor that has retarded the progress of this country. Even if you argue that Marcos holds that distinction, you have no contradiction. Lest we forget, he was supported all out by the Americans because of their bases here, even being toasted by George Bush Sr. as a pillar of democracy. The presence of American troops here is but the latest trick in a relationship with the United States characterized by treaties that have benefited the United States while wreaking havoc on this country. Treaties that go all the way back to "parity rights," which were made a condition for the approval of rehabilitation funds.

Understandable? It happens to you once, you're *malas*. It happens to you twice, you're still *malas*. It happens to you again and again, you're stupid. The Trojans have a saying we would do well to heed: Beware the Americans bearing gifts.

Perplexing reversal of Sandigan decision

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER Senate President Jovito Salonga, the brilliant lawyer that he is, is very careful with his words. I spoke to him yesterday on the recent decision of the Sandiganbayan's First Division to reverse its Sept. 19, 2000 decision awarding the Swiss deposits of the Marcoses to the Philippine government, and he chose to use the term "inexcusable negligence" to describe what the court did. But if I read him right, what he was really trying to say was that the chief of the division, Justice Francis Garchitorena, could have acted with some kind of bad faith. One thing's sure, many of us find this decision awfully perplexing.

* * *

In this recent ruling, Garchitorena reversed the September 2000 ruling of his own division on a mere "technicality." The earlier ruling was penned by Justice Catalino Castañeda Jr. and concurred in by then Presiding Justice Garchitorena and Gregory Ong. In the Feb. 1, 2002 ruling issued by the First Division and concurred in by two other justices (in case there is no unanimity of decision, court rules compel two other justices from another division to sit in), there was a switching of sides: Garchitorena and Ong joined Justice Ferrer in reversing the September 2000 ruling, while Castañeda and Justice Villaruz, a Macapagal appointee, upheld it.

* * *

In the Feb. 1, 2002 ruling, Garchitorena opined that the PCGG "failed to present authenticated translations" of the landmark twin decisions of the Swiss Supreme Court in December 1997 declaring the money found in five foundations to belong to the Marcoses (at that time it amounted to $356 million but now with the interest this has ballooned to nearly $650 million) and that much of it had been illegally obtained by them. In what is considered a precedent in Swiss banking history, notes Salonga, the Swiss high court authorized the transfer of the Marcos money to the Philippine government. The money is now held in escrow in the PNB.

Salonga opines, however, that there are proper steps in "authenticating" official Swiss documents, which are not difficult to do—if there is a desire to get that authentication. The inference is that there was no such desire on the part of the Sandigan justices, led by Garchitorena.

* * *

Salonga pointed out that the Swiss documents were originally written in German, and for their English translation to be considered authentic, it must be authorized by the Swiss Supreme Court and then certified either by the Philippine Embassy in Berne, Switzerland, or by the Swiss Embassy here as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs. What's curious is that it took Garchitorena more than one and a half years from the time his division awarded the money to the Philippine government to discover that the authentication had not been done. Garchitorena said that what the PCGG had submitted were "simple photocopies" of the translations, and he blamed the PCGG officials and lawyers as well as the Office of the Solicitor General for this failure.

* * *

But Salonga said that even assuming that Garchitorena was pointing out a fact, it would have been so easy to require the PCGG and the OSG to submit authenticated copies. The court could also have ordered the DFA and our embassy in Berne to do this. Why, Salonga asked, did it take more than four years after the Swiss Court's decision for the Sandiganbayan to notice this "supposed lapse"?

Of course to be fair, it should be pointed out that Garchitorena has always been a stickler for correctness in court procedures and in various conversations this columnist has had with him, he decried the sloppy work of government lawyers, especially the PCGG's. Their sloppy work, he said, forced the court to return their pleadings, stressing that he would not do their work for them. Still, it cannot be helped, I suppose, that people would argue that if he really wanted to push the Marcos cases faster, he could have simply asked for the authenticated translations.

* * *

All is not lost yet. Salonga noted that this technical lapse can easily be cured by the graft court under new Presiding Justice Minita Nazario since the forfeiture suit has been reset by Garchitorena himself "for further proceedings." So, this door is not closed, although the Marcoses can be expected to appeal any change in the decision to the Supreme Court. All the dilatory tactics in these cases, which are now nearly 16 years old, have caused the first PCGG chair to advise that the government forget about getting justice for the people through our *pagong*-paced judicial system and try instead the new "additional protocol" to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, which allows a "direct restitution" of the ill-gotten wealth by the requested state (in this case Switzerland). The Swiss Parliament is scheduled to approve this protocol in its session this month or by June.

* * *

Two senators observed milestones last weekend. Opposition Sen. Blas Ople's 75th birthday last Sunday evening at the Manila Hotel drew a motley crowd led by Vice President Tito Guingona. Sen. Loi Ejercito read a letter from her detained husband, ex-President Erap, written in Filipino, detailing his many *utang na loob* to Ka Blas that left the audience close to tears. Sen. Loren Legarda observed her 42nd birthday with a greening project in Biñan, Laguna, which drew a big crowd, among them 18 ambassadors.

Change and creativity

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"COMMUNICATION in an Age of Disruptive Change" was the theme of the first conference of the Philippine chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) last week.

Addressing the participants were keynote speaker Jaime Zobel de Ayala, chair of the Ayala Corp., and special guest speaker Dr. Johnnetta Cole, described in the program as an "educator, anthropologist and spokesperson for women's rights." Her personal and professional achievements are best summed up, though, by her citation as "one of America's national treasures."

Ayala and Cole acknowledged the dizzying pace of technological, political and social change in the past decade or so. Cole, who cut her teeth in social activism in the civil rights movement, warned though that even as the world is rapidly evolving, old hatreds and prejudices still thrive. "We are living in an era of disruptive change and destructive continuities," she said. Ayala likewise cautioned that there is still "need for constancy amid change," asserting that while "change rides on powerful horses, values give them rein."

Ayala and Cole were succeeded by a "CEO Forum," featuring a panel of heads of businesses, including PDI's Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, who shared their own experiences in using both internal and external communication to soften the impact of disruptive change within their organizations.

Indeed, the world our parents knew, and even the world in which we, the mid-lifers, grew up in, has all but disappeared. In the past decade or so, it seems we have done nothing but catch up with technology. As a friend remarked with much annoyance some years back: "I'm just learning to use the fax machine, and now everyone tells me the modem is the way to go!" And this was before e-mail became a daily habit. Has she ever tried chatting online, I wonder?

* * *

ONE of the reasons I attended the IABC conference was that Dr. Cole met with a small group of women in media over lunch the day before. What I heard in our short exchange was enough to whet my appetite for more from this remarkable woman.

I brought with me to the media lunch a copy of the book "Composing a Life" by Mary Catherine Bateson, who like Dr. Cole is a noted anthropologist and social scientist, but must bear the burden of being known all her life as the daughter of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson. In this book, Bateson seeks to examine the "creative potential of the complex lives we live today" by training her sights on the life stories of five women, including her own. One of the four women is Johnnetta Cole.

Call it serendipity, but while rereading "Composing a Life," I realized that what Bateson had to say about the "discontinuities" of women's lives and how women often have to resort to "improvisation" to cope with the disruptions they encounter, was exactly the prescription to the dilemmas presented in the conference: coping with change, charting a new path, improvising a response.

* * *

WOMEN, Bateson implies, seem to be better prepared to deal with "disruptive change." Rare indeed is the woman, in these times of many challenges, whose life proceeds on a straight line. Instead, we pursue our dreams for both personal fulfillment and career advancement through roads pockmarked with obstacles.

Marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood—all can be disruptions to a smooth timeline, requiring a woman to slow down, temporarily halt, if not abandon entirely, a career outside the home. Sometimes, a husband's career moves may require a wife to pick up and pack up frequently, seeking to start anew wherever his own trajectory may take him. Even our daily schedules speak of our multi-faceted lives, with trips to the supermarket and the parent-teacher conference mixed in along with client calls and a 9-5 workday.

Women's "interrupted" lives have often been viewed as a "weakness" or a liability. Bateson argues, though, that the experience of coping with frequent change equips women to deal with the breathless pace of change in the last few years. While men who cut their teeth on the "old" economy have difficulty adjusting to the parameters of the "new" e-business, women, used to creative challenges, are far more willing to learn, adjust and ride the wave.

* * *

"IT is time now to explore the creative potential of interrupted and conflicted lives, where energies are not narrowly focused or permanently pointed toward a single ambition. These are not lives without commitment, but rather lives in which commitments are continually refocused and redefined," Bateson writes.

In her talk before the IABC, Cole went down a list of challenges that societies around the world must still confront, including the denial of basic human freedoms in too many countries, "environmental injustice," as well as "man-made disasters" that have wrought havoc on world economies.

But after one such "litany," Cole recalled, a wizened preacher approached her and asked if she knew about "the Noah principle." When she said no, the old man said, "You need to stop predicting the rain and start building the arks!"

Perhaps this is what women have been doing all these years. Instead of moping and moaning about how their plans had been continually interrupted and derailed, they chose to "build an ark" instead, finding fulfillment in motherhood, civic involvement, artistic pursuits, further study or even different careers.

It hasn't made for an orderly existence, and many times women's résumés may look messy and smack of "*oido*," or playing it by ear. But this is how they composed their lives, and who is to say one piece of music is any less important than another?

'M' is for money: the Balayan controversy

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT used to be that in this predominantly Catholic country "M" stood for Mary, Mother of God. Nowadays it seems that "M" stands not only for money but for McDonald's. Haven't you noticed that wherever there's a Catholic church, McDonald's isn't far behind? For instance, you knew you were in Laoag after a long and exhausting journey because at the approach from the bridge there was that awe-inspiring vision of the church greeting your tired eyes. Definitely it was deliberately designed by those old friars to remind the faithful that the house of God was a most important aspect of life. Nowadays, it's a huge monstrous McDonald's sign that meets you. The irony is that McDonald's sits on church property.

It may be that this is the local Catholic Church's version of "preferential option for the poor" or perhaps that of Filipino bishops, who are all powerful in so far as their dioceses are concerned. Not even Rome can question decisions such as what to do with Church property. But whatever policies the Church has adopted since Vatican II appear not to have succeeded in attracting converts. As a matter of fact, earlier surveys conducted by McCann Erickson and a national study commissioned by the Society of Jesus appears to prove that they've failed miserably. The latest survey again done by Philippine Jesuits complements the previous two.

About a year and a half ago, a group from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts went on an inspection tour of the church in Balayan, Batangas, since it had been chosen as one of the 25 churches throughout the Philippines that merited preservation. I personally was a bit taken aback when the parish priest, a Father Mandanas who was related to the governor, mentioned that we should instead hie over to Taal and see what we could do about the mess over there. He himself intended to rent or lease the church grounds to a mall or some other income-generating company. Not that he wasn't already involved in a commercial venture since jeepneys and other utility vehicles were using the church grounds as a depot and parking lot. Some dignity.

Shortly afterwards, we heard that the good father had entered into a contract with McDonald's which, despite a cease and desist order, without clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and with unhappy townspeople up in arms, went ahead with the construction of a restaurant with its usual ubiquitous design. At the moment, the courts have upheld the cease and desist order and that wretched "M" sign isn't up yet, thank God.

That, however, isn't the worse part of our story. Apparently that other enemy of Filipino Church heritage, Bishop Rosales of Lipa, did not only give his approval for Father Mandanas' nasty scheme but he was also just waiting in the wings to give his approval for another McDonald's in Batangas City. Thus, the concerned citizens of Batangas are worried that if Balayan falls so will the rest of the province.

I wouldn't have given too much credence to that worry if it weren't Bishop Rosales who had approved the remodeling of the church in San Juan, Batangas, despite the objections of certain parishioners. Besides he also had the final word on the Taal cathedral.

While the faithful can understand that the Church needs money to support whatever projects it may have for evangelization, the question is, at whose expense? And it looks like it's the Filipino heritage that will have to be sacrificed.

I'm not sure if Bishop Rosales or Father Mandanas remembers Christ's anger when He flogged the money lenders and drove them out of the temple.

At a recent seminar, Ricky Jose reportedly asked the priests in attendance whether a person choosing which religious sect to join would choose the Catholic Church based on outward appearances. The Seventh Day Adventists repeat a certain type of design in their temples of spare, sharp, well-defined lines surrounded by squeaky clean landscaped grounds. The Iglesia ni Cristo's architect could have been inspired by a Disneyland castle, but their buildings and grounds though veritably plastered with cement still present well tended surroundings. Maintenance is obviously important in their religious messages. Nowhere are there any restaurants on their grounds.

Now there's the Baclaran, Manaoag, or Quiapo syndrome. Beeping around, weaving in and out of narrow passageways are any number of money lenders in their scooters among the hundreds of vendors, beggars, pick-pockets, *herbolarios* and devotees, not to mention stinking mounds of garbage. Stray dogs wander in and out of the church before, during and after Mass while the wind whips up scraps of paper, leaves and what looks like the debris of the ages. And don't even mention the bathrooms; you can tell their location from a hundred yards away by the stench. Just follow your nose.

Based on appearances alone, which church would you opt to join? On the other hand, to be fair, Bishop Rosales and Father Mandanas might have had the school children and the parishioners in mind. McDonald's does have clean, well-lighted bathrooms.

Things 'Pinoy'

YOUNGBLOOD

Nicole V. Ignacio

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

FIRST let me explain. This is not my way of saying how pitiful our country has become lately. Neither am I a passionate nationalist who would lead rallies and demand reforms in the streets. It just happened that I was suddenly struck by a feeling of, well, nationalism.

This feeling started with the realization that I did not have the itch to leave this country, unlike many of my friends and relatives who are either dreaming of leaving for good or have already filed their immigration papers (although in fairness, they have their own reasons for doing so). The turbulence rocking our country cannot persuade me to leave. Instead I dwell on the many endearing things we have that I suppose I wouldn't find in any other corner of the world. I have listed down some of them—be they comically annoying, peculiar, or plain insignificant, but they're definitely Filipino and, like I said, I wouldn't find them elsewhere.

- **"Dirty delicacies"** sold on the streets by vendors, such as fishballs, ice scramble, *mangga at bagoong* on a stick and "dirty ice cream" served by scoops in small plastic cups. These may not be certified clean, but to me, they beat fine cuisine any day.
- Unbelievable **text addicts** who carelessly drift everywhere, seemingly entranced by that cell phone, their fingers flying from letter to letter. Unfortunately, this addiction can end in insane tragedy sometimes. I can never understand how anyone can kill somebody else because of a cell phone.
- **Game shows**. Game *ka na ba*? Most of us make sure we don't miss any of the many game shows now on television. People watch because it's pure entertainment, or sometimes for the fun of seeing some contestants commit booboos. In case, you haven't watched any of these new shows, you must be the weakest link Goodbye.
- ***Telenovelas*** fall into the same category as the game shows. Admit it. Don't tell me that you don't get affected by "Pangako sa 'yo" or wait for "Tres Mujeres." Be it local or rather badly dubbed Spanish shows, *telenovelas* are now a part of our lives.
- ***Pormang Pinoy***. We Filipinos, always great imitators, have our own replicas of imported clothes, shoes and accessories. We also have the tendency to buy what people we admire wear, even if it doesn't fit our budget, personality or even the weather. You can see people wearing bonnets, knee-high boots, sweaters and parka jackets even when it's 32°C outside.
- **Videoke**. When and where else can frustrated singers feel like stars? But I have to admit, this is a fun form of release for all that locked-up tension.
- **Filipino food** has never really appealed to international taste buds. Some say that it's because of the presentation—the "paella look" where various ingredients are mixed up in one dish—or simply because the taste for it needs to be acquired. I enjoy watching foreigners react to *bopis, dinuguan, sisig, bagoong, chicharon bulaklak*, and the like. But who cares about their disgusted looks and unflattering comments? All these taste fine to me.
- **The way we celebrate Christmas.** *Parol*, *Aguinaldo*, hot chestnuts, *puto bumbong*—these need no further explanation.
- ***Tunog Pinoy***. Here's something I'm very proud of and fond of. Filipino music is so rich and diverse, it just needs to be given some attention. Ethnic/tribal, hip-hop, soul, alternative, and the somewhat new rapcore—we have our own breed of fine musicians right here. And let's not forget to give credit even to those artists who shamelessly try to sound like foreign artists: their music can be heard in jeepneys, *carinderias* and *sari-sari* stores.
- **Scenic and not-so-scenic places.** We boast of some of the most breathtaking beaches, and other gifts of our tropical climate. But I must say that I'm more intrigued by such interesting places as Divisoria, Quiapo, the downtown bars and other dark holes.
- **Diverse dialects**. Considering that we have 7,100 islands in this country, this isn't much of a surprise. I happen to think that Tagalog is an intricately exquisite language. It's a shame how this has been pushed into the background, with English becoming the more familiar language among the educated. I dream of a time when Tagalog is the medium of instruction in our schools, and other dialects are taught there too. But then that would be wishful thinking. On the lighter side of things, though, I just noticed how ironic that many of us aren't fluent in either English or Tagalog.
- Finally, **our people**, of course. There's just too much to say about us brown-skinned natives, both positive and negative. Ironies and contrasts are present in our basic characteristics, and I can't help but smile at that.

For the moment, these are the things I think I can't lived without. Because of them, I don't think I would ever seriously consider leaving this country. That would be nearly impossible. I am attached to this place.

You might ask, who is this hypocrite who writes about nationalism in English? Let me tell you I buy imported products and worship some foreign bands. But that's about how shallow as my liking for thing foreign gets. True-blue Pinoy blood runs through my veins, cheesy as it may sounds. Who knows, I might change my mind about not wanting to emigrate someday. In fact, I sometimes wonder if I really am a nationalist, or just a fool trying to turn myself into a martyr. My conclusion? I'm probably a little bit of both.

Nicole V. Ignacio, 15, is high school sophomore at St. Paul's College, Pasig.

THEY SAID

Champions

"By becoming champions of justice, we become champions of peace."

—Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., speaking at the Third Regional Convention of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines

Continuing fight

"Ombudsman Desierto is very much mistaken if he thinks that the fight to discredit him and have him punished for his monumental crimes of corruption is over."

—Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo on the filing of a new impeachment complaint against the Ombudsman

Broken promises

"They have made many promises that this agony would end. That has not been forthcoming, and it has added to the anguish of the people."

—Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo on the failure of the military to end the Abu Sayyaf problem

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Neither a moral duty nor an economic imperative

CONTRARY to John Gibson's assertion (PDI, 1/31/02), it is neither a moral duty nor an economic imperative on the part of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "to request support from a friendly foreign power" in dealing with the Abu Sayyaf.

First, the President does not share Gibson's distrust of the Filipino soldier. She feels secure as President, she has said time and again, because the Armed Forces of the Philippines fully supports her. If she can rely on the AFP to protect her hold on power, certainly she can depend on it in dealing with the puny Abu Sayyaf.

In fact, the AFP has a better record in dealing with Mindanao Moros than the US military. Under Gen. Fortunato Abat, the AFP decimated Nur Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front, a more formidable force than the Abu Sayyaf. More recently, under Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio the AFP dislodged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from Camp Abubakar and 40 other camps. As an armed force, the Abu Sayyaf is a mere fraction of the MILF. On the other hand, when we were a US colony, the US military lost all its wars against the Moros of Mindanao.

Second, the "economic abyss" Filipinos are now in, with (as Gibson noted) one out of every four Filipinos surviving on less than P38 a day, is not the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf. The culprit is the US-imposed globalization, which has been destroying wholesale industries and jobs in this country since 1994 through liberalization, deregulation and privatization. What Gibson calls "foreign inward investment" and tourists stopped flowing into this country since 1997 not because of the Abu Sayyaf but because the Thai baht collapsed, triggered by the explosion of the speculative bubble built by globalization's foreign fund managers.

Third, Zamboangueños, Gibson stated, welcomed US troops "while Manila-based nationalists wring their hands at this grave affront to national sovereignty." Zamboangueños did so because they think the US troops, with their "high-tech equipment and weapons," could instantly pulverize the Abu Sayyaf. But when they realize that the US troops are here in pursuit of President Bush's war against terror—a war which "has just begun" after relentlessly raining bombs and missiles in Afghanistan for over four months—they will quickly recognize their mistake. It is now clear, based on Bush's State of the Union Address, that the war against terror is America's strategy to fight the current recession in the United States. Just as the United States emerged out of the Great Depression through World War II, the recession-plagued US will now wage war against Bush's "Axis of Evil" composed of North Korea, Iran and Iraq and again the al-Qaida terror network which, by Washington's definition, includes the Abu Sayyaf. The biggest component of Bush's budget proposal is for defense contracts.

President Macapagal, Gibson said, "has every right to request support from a friendly foreign power." She does not have that right. The Constitution which she vowed to enforce at Edsa states in Section 25, Article XVIII: "...foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines" after 1991, the year the historic Salonga Senate and Mt. Pinatubo expelled the US bases from Clark and Subic.

A UK citizen is supposed to abide by the rule of law.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Inciong and Associates, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City

Wrong reference to Taiwan

THE INTERNATIONAL news media, when reporting cross-strait relations, often qualify such relations by saying, "Taiwan, which China regards as a renegade province..."

We take strong exception to that sort of reporting, because Taiwan, which has the official name of the Republic of China (ROC), is a sovereign state just like any other country in the world and the Chinese mainland has never said that "Taiwan is a renegade province."

The international media's reference to Taiwan as "a renegade province" is extremely judgmental, implying that Taiwan is illegitimate. This has had a very negative impact on our national sovereignty and integrity. If the same warped logic were to be extended, people of Taiwan have absolutely no rights to speak of Taiwan and does not deserve even token recognition of its existence by the international community, which threatens the survival and development of our country.

In the Gulf War, for example, Iraq viewed Kuwait as one of its provinces and consequently occupied it by force. If the international community had accepted Iraq's viewpoint, then the allies headed by the United States would have dispatched troops without justification and would have been accused of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. Following the same argument, if the international community recognizes Taiwan as a province of China, it will not have any say if Beijing invades Taiwan.

The Republic of China was founded in 1912 in mainland China. In 1949, the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established after the Chinese Communist triumphed on the mainland. Consequently, the ROC government was forced to move to Taiwan and has since exerted sovereignty over the Taiwan-Penghu-Kinmen-Matsu area. Apparently, since 1949 China has been divided in two, one is ROC, the other PRC.

Taiwan, whose sovereignty is denied by Beijing, has never been a part of the PRC. The Beijing government has never exerted jurisdiction over the people of Taiwan or collected even a single cent as tax from them. How can Taiwan be described as a "renegade" province of China?

Tang Shubei, former vice chair of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, said at a press conference held in San Francisco on Sept. 13, 1999 that the Chinese mainland had never said that "Taiwan is a renegade province." Tang added that it was purely fictitious, a lie, and was aimed at causing grievances from the people on Taiwan.

Taiwan, which .China refuses to accept as a sovereign state, is a free and democratic country that respects human rights and loves peace. Although Beijing wants to bring Taiwan under its rule and spares no effort to isolate it from the international community, Taiwan still maintains formal diplomatic relations with 28 countries, including the Vatican. Taipei also keeps close but unofficial ties with 120 countries, including the Philippines.

We therefore appeal to your good newspaper and the international media, which we look up to for fairness and objectivity to review the statement that "China regards Taiwan as a renegade province" and to consider replacing it with "China refuses to accept Taiwan as a sovereign state."

—ROBERT T.J. Shin, director,
Information Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, 2/F., Low Rise Tower, Pacific Star Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Offensive streamer in Subic

MY two cousins and I went to Subic about two weeks ago. We were three weary travelers looking forward to a much needed weekend respite at the Crown Peak Hotel after days of hard labor at out offices. We were very excited at getting away from the noise and air pollution of Metropolitan Manila. With happy thoughts of lush greenery, blue Subic waters, clean air and duty-free shops, we endured the three-hour drive to Subic.

What greeted us at the road separating the entrance of Subic Bay Freeport Zone and Olongapo City really surprised us (and later irritated us). There at the center of the road hung a very big streamer with these words: "Gordon *magpakalalaki ka!*" There were no other words to explain what it meant.

Seeing that banner really dampened our spirits. I have heard of the rivalry among personalities in Subic, particularly Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and SBMA chair Felicito Payumo, but putting up a banner like that for all the tourists, local or foreign, to see is not helping our country one bit. Those words are childish, if not vulgar.

I have seen Gordon in action and I really admire the man. He almost single-handedly converted the former US military base into what it is now: a tourist getaway and industrial zone that all of us Filipinos should be proud of. He really doesn't deserve having his name slandered in big banners like that.

I've seen Subic and I've seen Olongapo, and really they are model communities. The streets are clean, the people are disciplined and they don't need people disrupting their simple lives.

With the problems facing our country, we need to do away with our "crab mentality," that is, pulling each other down to get to the top. Let's be civilized and respect each other enough to go to the proper forum to air our grievances and not put up banners like that.

I am asking Payumo to immediately have that banner taken down if he wants to see more tourists visiting Subic. If the purpose of the people behind that banner was to get sympathy from the public, they certainly didn't get mine.

—KATS BELEN-LICUDINE,
2210 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower, Pasong Tamo Ave., Makati City

'Black Hawk Down': history or propaganda?

LOOKING for an action film? There's "Black Hawk Down," now showing in local theaters, depicting a major battle during the United States' involvement in Somalia in 1992-1993.

Since some foreign political analysts are now comparing the Philippines to Somalia (an unfair one, I should say), I thought I should give a more complete picture of what happened in that country. The movie is based on a book of the same title by journalist Mark Bowden, who writes a riveting account that attracted Hollywood producers. But there's a more critical book, "Me Against My Brother," by another journalist, Scott Peterson, who gives a less flattering reconstruction of US intervention.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

In 1990, the Somalis overthrew a dictatorship but this was followed by civil war involving several warlords and clans. Late in 1992, US President George Bush (father of the current president) sent in US troops. Still flushed by the United States' "victories" in the Gulf War, Bush justified the intervention by saying the American troops were needed in Somalia to prevent the country from disintegrating. This was, Bush proclaimed, "God's work."

In the short time the Americans were in Somalia, they sowed, as so many US government interventions go, the seeds for major disaster. The feuding Somali warlords were ready to accept large-scale disarmament, if they could be assured that this would be done impartially. But what the US government did was to back two clan chiefs, one of whom was Mohamed Farah Aideed, later dubbed by American intelligence agents as the "Hitler of Somalia."

When UN forces took over the administration of Somalia, Aideed put up a fight. In June 1993, UN forces tried to seize Aideed's radio station, which was broadcasting anti-UN propaganda. The Somali warlord's soldiers fired and killed 25 of the UN soldiers. A few days later, UN soldiers fired on an unarmed crowd, killing women and children.

The UN forces, commanded by a US admiral, now went full force against Aideed, still using faulty intelligence and a poor understanding of local political culture. In July 1993, as members of Aideed's clan gathered in a building in Mogadishu (Somalia's capital) to discuss the possibilities of a peace agreement with the UN, US forces fired high-powered missiles at them, killing 54 people. Among the dead were four Western journalists who had rushed to the scene and were lynched by an angry mob. The bombing incident had so enraged Somalis that rival warlords now united against the UN and American forces.

The United States retaliated with even more force. The new President Bill Clinton sent in 450 commandos to destroy Aideed, who was now a folk hero. Bowden's book says the helicopters stirred even more anti-American sentiment as choppers on patrol "whipped off roofs from whole neighborhoods...tearing infants from the arms of their mothers."

On Oct. 3, 1993, US troops sent Black Hawk helicopters to raid one of Aideed's buildings, hoping to capture two of the warlord's senior advisers. The raid is now remembered as the Battle of the Black Sea.

The Somalis shot down the helicopters and savaged US soldiers, both from the helicopters as well as from a support ground convoy. Eighteen American soldiers were killed and some readers might remember news footage showing one of the American corpses being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu. Few people know that 500 Somalis were also killed during that battle, and that many of them were civilians. When the Americans tried to withdraw, they took Somali women and children as hostages and locked them into the house in which they were being besieged.

Somalia certainly isn't the Philippines but there are enough parallels to cause concern. Catch the film, but be aware, too, that this Hollywood production leaves out many important details, preferring to show the United States as the misunderstood hero. George Monbiot, an op-ed columnist with the British daily Guardian, describes the film's distortion of history, not so much in terms of dates and events than in its imagery:

"They (the Somalis) display no emotions other than greed and the lust for blood. Their appearances are accompanied by sinister Arab techno, while the US forces are trailed by violins, oboes and vocals inspired by Enya. The American troops display horrific wounds. They clutch photos of their loved ones and ask to be remembered to their parents or their children as they die. The Somalis drop like flies, killed cleanly, dispensable, compelling personification of evil..."

I grew up during the Cold War era, with teachers constantly warning us against "communist propaganda," especially from "Red China." Only later did I learn that the "good guys"—the "Free World"—also had its propaganda, sometimes even more dangerous because it was subtle. Unlike Radio Peking broadcasts with its shrill praise of Chairman Mao and rattling of boring statistics about economic progress, American propaganda was far more insidious, using glossy mass-circulation magazines and the dazzle of the silver screen to spread its interpretation of the world. I can imagine "Black Hawk Down" convincing even more Filipinos that our salvation in Mindanao lies with the intervention of special US commandos like those sent to Somalia.

I'll give a few more facts to cap our history lesson for the day, facts you won't get from the Hollywood version. The UN peacekeeping forces packed up and left Somalia in frustration 18 months after the "Black Hawk Down" incident. Aideed was killed in 1996. Somalia, today, still has no government.

Erratum

In the title of yesterday's editorial the name of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena was misspelled as "Gartchitorena." We regret the error.

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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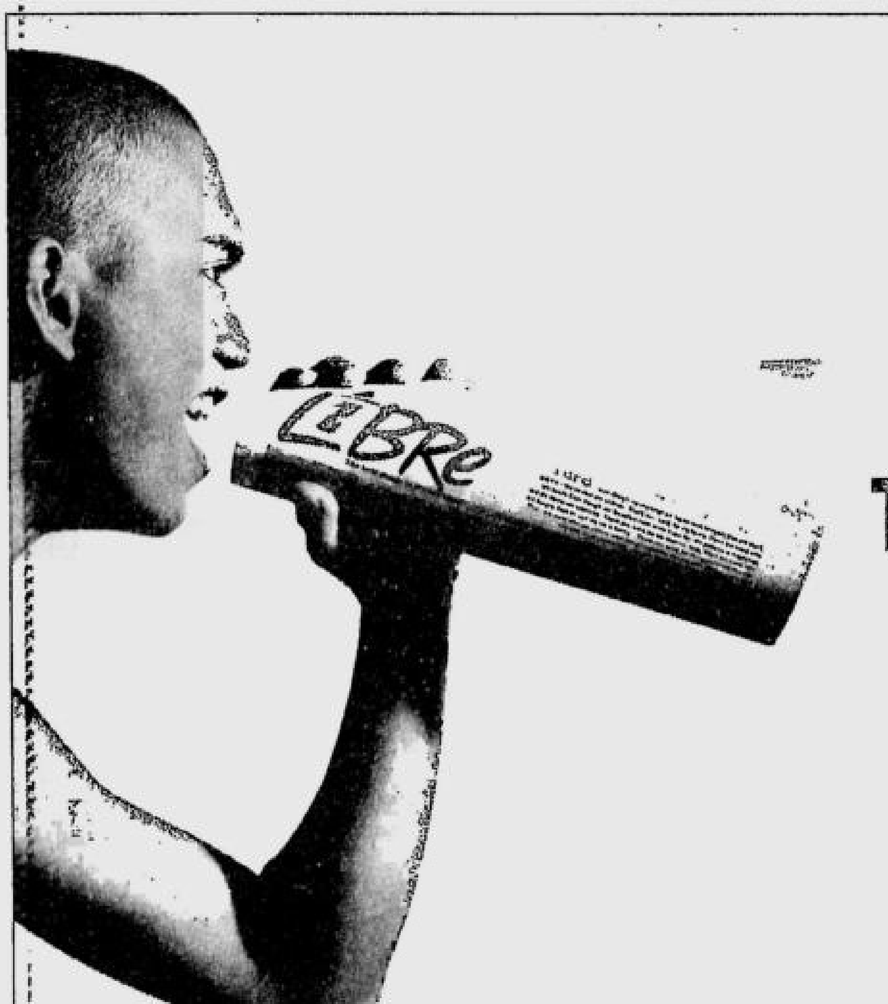

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The Best Things in Life Are LiBRe

Oil price hike held unlikely

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESSMAN Raul Concepcion yesterday said an increase in oil prices was unlikely this month despite the rise in world petroleum prices in January.

Concepcion, who chairs the private-sector Consumer and Oil Price Watch, explained that there should be no price increase as the oil firms had held back last month's price rollback by 50 centavos per liter.

On Jan. 7, the oil companies slashed the prices of gasoline by 35 centavos per liter and of diesel and kerosene by 30 centavos.

Concepcion said at the time that prices should have been reduced by an average of 84 centavos per liter.

Yesterday, Concepcion said that because of changes in world crude prices, domestic petroleum prices could be expected to go up by 18 centavos per liter on Feb. 22.

"(However,) the 50-centavo balance would offset this (the 18-centavo increase) and the remaining 32 centavos can be used as a buffer for possible increases in March," he said.

Crude prices averaged $18.48 per barrel in January, up by 65 cents from December's $17.83.

Last month, the peso gained 36 centavos, posting P51.39 against the dollar from P51.75 in December.

The increase in oil prices was a result of the move by oil-producing countries to cut back production by 2 million barrels a day, said Concepcion.

But he said pump prices could be maintained at the current level even if crude prices moved up by a dollar per barrel and even if the peso were to lose the 36-centavo gain.

In a related development, Concepcion said he had met with the chief of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to discuss the basis for the transport fare increase in October 2000.

He the fare increase had been based on the following:

- A P4.71 increase in diesel prices from P9.54 to P14.25 per liter.
- The depreciation of the peso by P3.87, from P40.32 to P44.19 to the dollar.
- The increase in the cost of tires, tubes and batteries by 14 centavos, from P1.37 to P1.51 per km.

"We agreed that we will have to analyze the movement of the prices of diesel and gasoline on a monthly basis from October 2000 to February 2002," Concepcion said.

This would help determine whether the transport sector was overcharging or undercharging passengers, he said.

Concepcion said the Consumer and Oil Price Watch also intends to monitor the movements in transport fares in the same manner that does petroleum prices.

TV kills Pinay's HK ward

HONG KONG—A 5-year-old boy was crushed to death by a 34-inch television set, weighing 74 kg, a police spokesperson said Monday.

The accident occurred on Sunday when Wong Ping-yan was trying to get something from the television stand by standing on a drawer, while he was at home with his Filipino domestic helper, she said.

The helper told police she was in the bathroom when she heard a loud noise in the living room.

She immediately took the boy, who was injured in the head, outside to ask for help. He died from his injuries in the hospital. *AFP*

Japanese, Unitrust execs blamed for bank's closure

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRESIDENT of G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. and two ranking officials of the Unitrust Development Bank have been found criminally liable for the closure of the UDB last month, the central bank said yesterday.

Criminal charges against the officials—Winefredo Capilitan, Jose Apolinario Jr. and Motohiko Hagisaka—were filed with the justice department on Feb. 1 by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Office of Special Investigation.

GCP, chaired by the Japan-based Genta Ogami, was ordered closed by the Securities and Exchange Commission on Jan. 7 for allegedly engaging in pyramiding operations, or the selling of unregistered securities.

Ogami is believed to be the majority owner of the Unitrust Development Bank which was ordered closed by the BSP on Jan. 4 after a dispute between Ogami and some his partners triggered a bank run.

Capilitan is the GCP president and is also director and corporate secretary of UDB; Apolinario is UDB acting president and director; and Hagisaka is a director and executive vice president of UDB.

In the complaint, Vicente Aquino, the head of the Office of Special Investigation, asked that the three be formally investigated for alleged violations of Section 36 of Republic Act 8791 (the General Banking Law of 2000) in relation to Section 36 of RA 7653 (the New Central Bank Act).

The charges stemmed from two loans—for P1 million and P13 million—that Capilitan obtained from the UDB under allegedly irregular circumstances.

Farmer beheaded by Abu

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted and beheaded a local farmer ahead of the deployment of US troops in Basilan, the military said yesterday.

Relatives found the headless corpse of Rolly Piedas, 30, beside a trail near the town of Maluso early Monday, three days after he left their house to tend to his farm. He is believed to be an informer for the Scout Rangers in the area.

"Our report indicates that the victim was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf," said Col. Alexander Aleo, military commander of Basilan.

Hundreds of US troops are mustering here for joint training with Filipino troops.

The six-month exercises would eventually take some of the American troops to nearby Basilan, where they would serve as armed observers joining Filipino combat missions against the Muslim guerrilla group.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen hold two US missionaries hostage on the island. They have murdered more than a dozen other captives, including American captive Guillermo Sobero.

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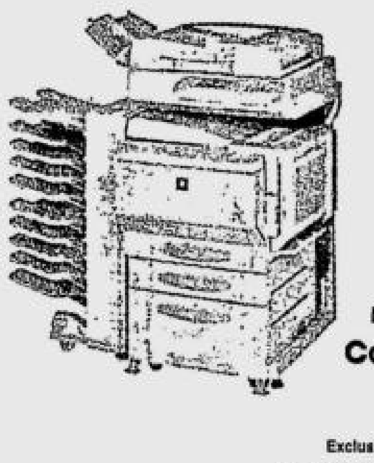

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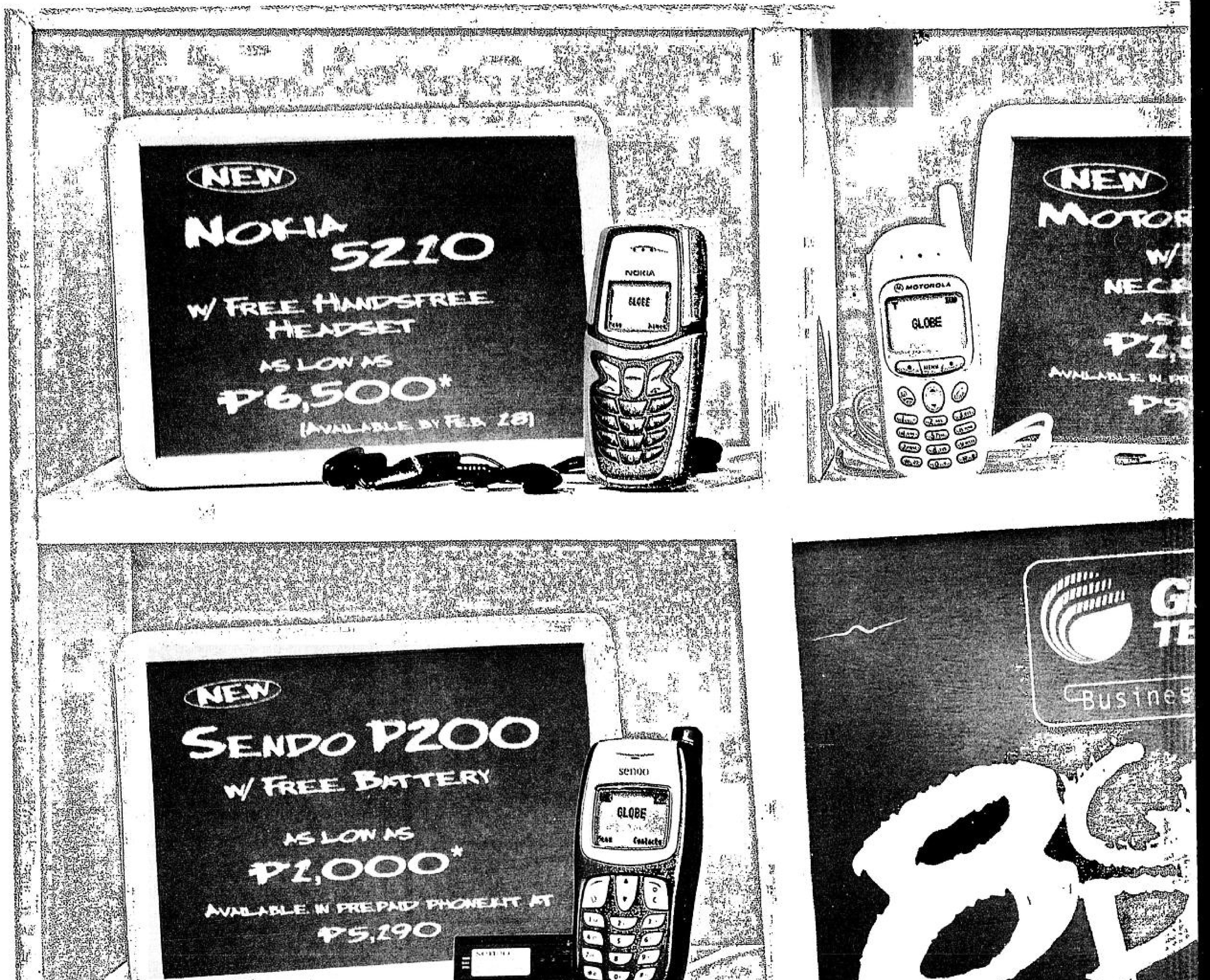

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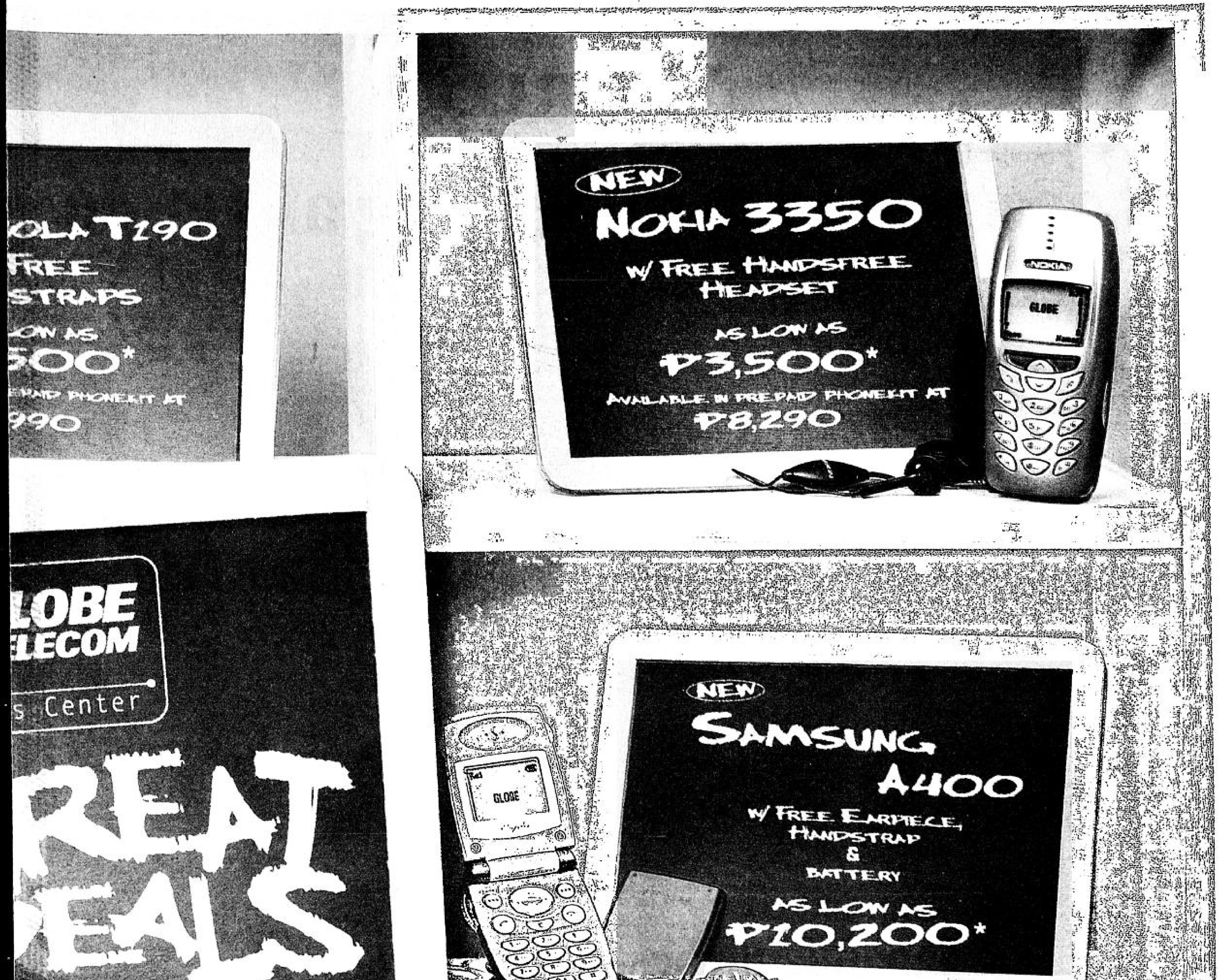
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Editor **Luvern B. Gueco**

US accuses Iran of helping al-Qaida

WASHINGTON/KABUL—US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld accused Iran on Sunday of helping Taliban and al-Qaida fighters to flee Afghanistan, while peacemakers reported progress in ending a bloody dispute between tribal factions over control of an eastern Afghan province.

Rumsfeld was speaking less than a week after US President George W. Bush in his State of the Union speech accused Iran, Iraq and North Korea of being an "axis of evil" in his war on terrorism, bent on acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov accused his Western allies of double standards for failing to condemn Moscow's Chechen enemies as "terrorists" with the same vigor as they pursue Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States in which some 3,100 people were killed.

The whereabouts of Bin Laden and his ally Taliban spiritual leader Mullah Mohammad Omar remained a mystery.

"We don't know where Mullah Omar is and we don't know where Osama bin Laden is, but we know that they are hiding and they are on the run," Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "When you're hiding and on the run, you're not doing a very good job of being in charge of anything."

In recent weeks Bush has switched his focus from finding Bin Laden to preventing countries such as Iran, Iraq and North Korea from acquiring nuclear, chemical or germ weapons.

Iraqi newspapers condemned "the dwarf Bush" as savage and aggressive and Iranian parliamentarians in a rare show of unity lashed out at Bush for his "axis of evil" comments and accused him of being under the influence of Israel.

Asked on the ABC "This Week" program if he could confirm a Time magazine report that Tehran helped Islamic militants to escape across the border, Rumsfeld replied: "I can."

"We have any number of reports that Iran has been permissive and allowed transit through their country of al-Qaida," he said. "There isn't any doubt in my mind but that the porous border between Iran and Afghanistan has been used for al-Qaida and Taliban to move into Iran and find refuge." *Reuters*

Enron execs seen facing prosecution

WASHINGTON—A key witness in Congressional hearings on the spectacular collapse of energy trader Enron Corp., former chief executive Kenneth Lay, on Sunday withdrew from hearings next week after members of Congress said they believed there was evidence of criminal misconduct in the company's demise.

"These inflammatory statements show that judgements have been reached and the tenor of the hearing will be prosecutorial," Lay's lawyer, Earl Silbert, wrote to the chairs of committees due to hear from the former CEO.

An internal Enron Corp. report released Saturday showing the company inflated profits while top employees raked in millions of dollars they should not have received puts some Enron executives in jeopardy of criminal prosecution, key members of the US Congress said on Sunday.

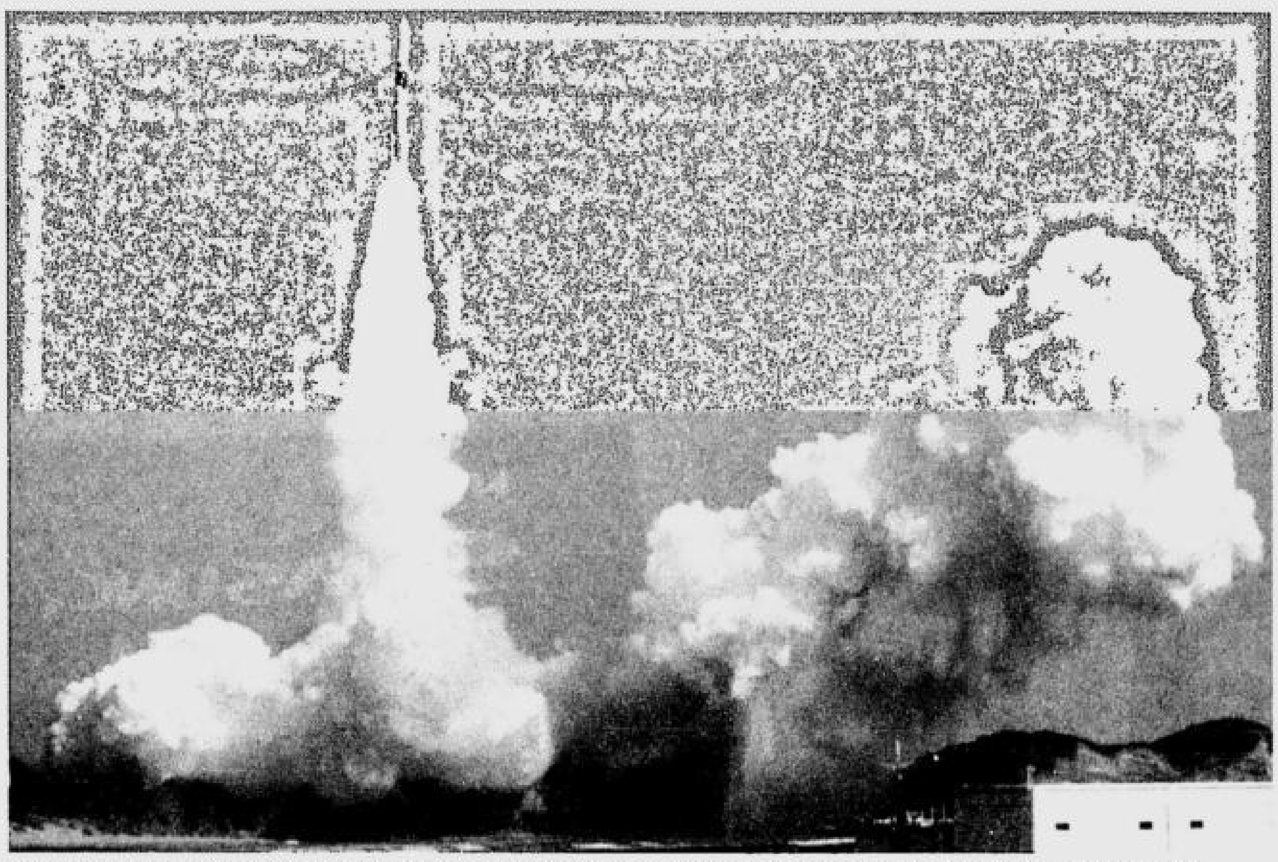
The report is the most comprehensive analysis of the former energy-trading giant's collapse to date and gives members of Congress a preview of what transpired ahead of four days of scheduled hearings on Monday.

"This is a devastating report . . . It suggests massive problems. This is almost a culture of corruption here," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, the North Dakota Democrat who chairs a Senate Commerce subcommittee that was due to open hearings on Monday on Enron's Dec. 2 filing of the biggest bankruptcy in US history.

Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," Dorgan said whether criminal charges should be brought was a justice department decision, but "clearly some things have happened here that are going to put some people . . . in real jeopardy."

In addition to his appearance on Monday before the Senate panel, Lay had been set to testify Tuesday before the House Financial Services Committee. A spokesperson for the Senate committee said the hearing was canceled and that no decision had been made on whether to subpoena Lay.

Lay's testimony was expected to be the opening highlight of a jam-packed week of Enron-related hearings, during which nine panels are set to take up the financial collapse of the one-time Wall Street darling and vanguard of the energy industry. *Reuters*



JAPAN'S H-2A rocket blasts off from the Tanegashima Space Center of the National Space Development Agency of Japan in Kagoshima, southwestern Japan, Feb. 4 carrying experimental equipment to pave the way for commercial launching of satellites. REUTERS

Japan launches biggest rocket

TANEGASHIMA, Japan—Japan's H-2A rocket blasted off this rocky islet in its final test launch Monday, carrying a payload of two probes and clearing the way for a series of operational launches through 2005.

The black and orange, unmanned craft—Japan's biggest to date—jumped off the pad with a thunderous boom heard kilometers away and quickly peeled into a pale blue sky on a billowing column of white smoke.

High winds and poor visibility had forced Japan's space agency to postpone the launch from Sunday. But conditions were near perfect Monday, and the launch went largely according to plan despite a slight delay because a boat had entered a restricted area near the coastal liftoff site.

The space shot of the $64-million H-2A rocket is seen as a key test of Japan's bid to become a world leader in the aerospace business. Monday's launch was its second and final test flight from Japan's space center in Tanegashima, a small island more than 980 km southwest of Tokyo.

A flawless liftoff clears the way for 11 "operational" flights scheduled over the next three years. It also helps prove the craft's mettle as a world-class competitor in the satellite launching business and bolster confidence in a space program battered by bureaucratic wrangling, cost overruns and technical breakdowns.

But if a glitch were to throw the rocket off course or put a satellite in the wrong orbit, it could be back to the drawing board for the National Space Development Agency of Japan, or Nasda.

Japan watched in relief last August when the first H-2A rocket blasted off into a clear blue sky.

Nasda had to scrap an earlier series of rockets, the H-2, when one failed to get its payload in orbit and another had to be exploded by remote control so it wouldn't veer out of control.

US-based Hughes Space and Communications International dumped an order for 10 satellite launches with Japan after those snafus.

Getting it right this time is a matter of pride.

"After two consecutive failures, we were very nervous," mission spokesperson Shinji Nio said before the launch. But if we work carefully and diligently, there should be no repeat problems.

"We have the economic and technological ability."

Yet even Monday's space shot was dogged by difficulty. Originally slated for Jan. 31, the schedule was pushed back to repair two faulty fuel valves found during a pre-launch test—problems Nio said were quickly fixed. *AP*

Body found on roadside not Pearl's

KARACHI—Fears that abducted US journalist Daniel Pearl had been killed were raised falsely here overnight after a body found dumped on a roadside was initially claimed to be his.

But a Karachi-based US consular official who identified the body concluded it was not Pearl, a state department spokesperson said.

"He has met with Mr. Pearl on various occasions. He has determined the body is not that of Mr. Pearl," the spokesperson said in Washington.

Sindh province police chief Kamal Shah told reporters in the early hours of Monday that "there was some confusion when the report of an unidentified fair-skinned body came to us."

"We rushed to the hospital and then we immediately informed the US consular officials and they visited the hospital with a Wall Street Journal editor and they confirmed that it was not that of Pearl's," Shah said at Karachi's Mideast Hospital, where the body was brought for identification.

Pearl's employers at the Journal subsequently issued a statement reaffirming their belief that he had not been killed, as one e-mail—now dismissed as a hoax—had claimed.

"We can confirm that the body was not Danny. We stand by (managing editor) Paul Steiger's statement of (Saturday) and continue to believe that Danny is still alive," the statement said.

US media had earlier quoted Pakistani police as saying the body was Pearl's.

The 38-year-old correspondent disappeared on Jan. 23 in this southern port city after telling his wife he was going to meet the leader of a little-known militant Islamic organization.

A hitherto unknown group calling itself the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, which sent a series of e-mails earlier in the week with photos of Pearl in captivity, had threatened to kill him by Thursday, then extended the deadline to Friday.

Pakistani media reported Monday that police had extended their search for Pearl to Peshawar, on the border with Afghanistan, and Quetta, some 565 km to the northwest of Karachi.

"These are the two cities visited by Mr. Pearl during his stay in Pakistan and we are exploring all possibilities to track him and the kidnappers down," a police source was quoted as saying by The News daily. *AFP*

TWO Turkish women walk past a quake-collapsed house made out of sun-dried bricks in Eber town near the western Turkish city of Afyon Feb. 3. REUTERS

45 killed in Turkey quake

EBER, Turkey—Hundreds of homeless huddled round fires and under blankets and plastic on a freezing night in western Turkey on Monday after a powerful earthquake struck, killing 45 people and injuring more than 170.

Civil defense teams with sniffer dogs called off rescue operations amid collapsed buildings late on Sunday, nearly 12 hours after the quake struck the mainly agricultural province of Afyon, some 250 km southwest of Turkey's capital Ankara.

"We've determined there are no survivors under the rubble. Therefore search-and-rescue efforts have finished," Afyon Deputy Governor Halil Ibrahim Turkoglu told the state-run Anatolian news agency.

Authorities, under fire for responding too slowly to two major earthquakes in 1999, said they had rushed mobile hospitals, prefabricated homes, food and blankets to the region and set up makeshift, open-air first aid posts to treat the injured.

About 100 buildings collapsed when the quake, measuring 6 on the Richter scale, rocked the area at 9:15 a.m.

Lethal earthquakes are common in Turkey, which is criss-crossed by fault lines.

In Eber, a village of about 1,000 people, 15 people were crushed to death in houses made of sun-dried mud bricks and wood. Residents fled into the streets, fearing their homes would collapse from structural damage or aftershocks. Some 30 tremors were felt after the initial quake. *Reuters*

Schoolgirl suspended for wearing headscarf

SINGAPORE—A young Muslim girl was suspended from school Monday for wearing an Islamic headscarf to class in a confrontation that has tested race relations in Singapore following the recent arrests of more than a dozen suspected al-Qaida-linked terrorists in the city-state.

The girl, seven-year-old Nurul Nasihah, began wearing the headscarf to class in early January but her school, like all public schools in this island nation of four million inhabitants, does not allow the scarf.

White Sands Primary School announced last week that if the girl did not comply with the ban by Monday, she would be suspended. On Monday she spent 30 minutes inside the school and then left accompanied by her mother and father. Her father, Mohamad Nasser, told reporters that she had been suspended.

Nurul is one of four Muslim girls whose families asked their school principals in early January for permission to wear the headscarves. Each was denied permission. The parents of one girl have decided to home school her, and it's not clear if the other two will also be suspended.

The government has repeatedly said that allowing the scarves would damage racial unity by underscoring differences among students. Almost 80 percent of Singapore's population is ethnic Chinese. Muslims account for about 15 percent and Indians make up most of the rest.

"You cannot give way" on the headscarf ban, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong told a group of young Muslims on Saturday. "If the schools give way, then I think let us not have any rules."

The Prime Minister added, however, that it was not a "never, never" position, and that eventually "our own attitudes may change."

Politicians in neighboring Malaysia and ethnic Malays in Singapore have voiced their anger over the headscarf ban. *AP*

NURUL Nasihah (left), wearing a "tudong," holds her mother's hand as she arrives at White Sands Primary school in Singapore Feb. 4. REUTERS

Leaders seek 'ethical globalization'

NEW YORK—Global business leaders heard a blunt warning on Sunday that corporations and international organizations must become more accountable or face mounting resentment from ordinary people and poor nations, and some appeared to heed the message.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson told business and political leaders at the fourth day of the World Economic Forum that they face a key challenge—empowering the common citizen in the globalization process.

"We need to move toward a more ethical globalization and find a way to have civic democracy on an international level," she said.

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey referred to the recent collapse of Enron, saying the fall of the energy trading giant raised fundamental questions about honesty and accountability within capitalism.

"There's a big question mark over capitalism today. It's one word and it's Enron," he said. "And what is that challenge? Capitalism has to act within boundaries."

The ever-widening gulf between rich and poor nations has emerged as a central theme of the five-day gathering, which has brought together 2,700 delegates from many different countries and disciplines to discuss key issues. *Reuters*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, February 5, 2002
4th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 2 S 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30—19:3
Gospel: Mk 5:21-43

Jesus crossed to the other side of the lake and while he was still on the shore, a large crowd gathered around him. Jairus, an official of the synagogue, came up and seeing Jesus, threw himself at his feet and asked him earnestly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her so that she may get well and live."

Jesus went with him and many people followed, pressing from every side. Among the crowd was a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a lot at the hands of many doctors and had spent everything she had, but instead of getting better, she was worse. Since she had heard about Jesus, this woman came up behind him and touched his cloak thinking, "If I just touch his clothing, I shall get well." Her flow of blood dried up at once, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her complaint.

But Jesus was conscious that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" His disciples answered, "You see how the people are crowding around you. Why do you ask who touched you?" But he kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, aware of what had happened, came forward trembling and afraid. She knelt before him and told him the whole truth.

Then Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you; go in peace and be free of this illness."

While Jesus was still speaking, some people arrived from the official's house to inform him, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Master any further?" But Jesus ignored what they said and told the official, "Do not fear, just believe." And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James and John, the brother of James.

When they arrived at the house, Jesus saw a great commotion with people weeping and wailing loudly. Jesus entered and said to them, "Why all this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep."

They laughed at him. But Jesus sent them outside and went with the child's father and mother and his companions into the room where the child lay. Taking her by the hand, he said to her, "Talitha kumi!" which means: "Little girl, get up!"

The girl got up at once and began to walk around. (She was twelve years old.) The parents were astonished, greatly astonished. Jesus strictly ordered them not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

Commentary

The woman in the gospel was considered unclean because of her illness (Lev. 15,19) and she would make unclean anyone who touched her. That is why the Law prohibited her mingling with others, but she dared to enter into the crowd and to touch Jesus' cloak. Jesus with his liberating love cured her. The religiosity of this woman is akin to what we call today "popular religiosity". As seen in this woman, popular religiosity is ill instructed, yet shows a strong religious sense and trust in God. As Jesus did, we should respect the religious expressions of popular religiosity while at the same time trying, like him, to help people discover deeper dimensions of their faith.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Arafat vows to stop attacks, says he's ready for talks

ARAFAT speaking during a meeting with his supporters in the West Bank City of Ramallah, Feb. 3 telling them he was ready to talk peace with any Israeli leader. REUTERS

JERUSALEM—Yasser Arafat, besieged by Israeli tanks and under US pressure to rein in militants, pledged in remarks published on Sunday to put an end to attacks on Israeli civilians by Palestinians he described as terrorists.

The statement by the Palestinian leader was released ahead of talks in Washington on Feb. 7 between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and US President George W. Bush, who has said he was "disappointed" with Arafat's handling of militants.

Commenting on Arafat's article in The New York Times, Sharon again called him irrelevant and told Israel's Channel Two Television that he was unswayed by his words.

Sharon has said he would urge Bush to sever ties with Arafat, blamed by Israel and the United States for an alleged attempt to smuggle Iranian arms into Gaza on a ship seized by Israel last month. Arafat has denied any link with the vessel.

Outlining what he called a "Palestinian vision" in an opinion piece in The New York Times, Arafat said 16 months into a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation: "Palestinians are ready to end the conflict..

"We are ready to sit down now with any Israeli leader, regardless of his history, to negotiate freedom for the Palestinians, a complete end of the occupation, security for Israel and creative solutions to the plight of the (Palestinian) refugees while respecting Israel's demographic concerns."

Arafat said in the newspaper article: "I condemn the attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians.

"These groups do not represent the Palestinian people or their legitimate aspirations for freedom. They are terrorist organizations and I am determined to put an end to their activities."

Sharon, in his Channel Two interview, signaled he wanted deeds and not words from Arafat.

"He talks incessantly. Certainly the comments were written in softer language, but he is excellent when it comes to talking," Sharon said. *Reuters*

Ex-Shin Bet chief warns Israel not to seek military victory

By Dan Williams

TEL AVIV—The former head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency said on Sunday it would be a disaster for Israel to try to end the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising through military victory.

Ami Ayalon, in an interview also said Israel should not target and kill Palestinian militants unless they were actually on their way to carry out attacks.

The remarks by Ayalon, a former Navy chief who headed the domestic intelligence agency from 1996 to mid-2000, ran against the grain of Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising against occupation.

"Winning this war against the Palestinians would be a disaster for Israel," Ayalon said. "There would be the unbearable moral cost of reoccupation, which, I believe, would not lead to Israel ever giving the Palestinians independence."

He said one of the unavoidable risks Israel had to take was "to vacate the territory in order to allow for the Palestinian state to be created."

"It's not a matter of yielding to Palestinian hostility. It's a matter of preserving Zionism," Ayalon added, citing Palestinian population growth which he said would ultimately make Jews a minority within Israel's borders.

Israel has said it has no intention of permanently reoccupying land handed over to the Palestinians under interim peace deals, although its forces have repeatedly made incursions in what the Army has called a response to anti-Israeli attacks.

The Shin Bet has been at the forefront of Israel's undercover war against militants, killed in internationally condemned attacks that Palestinians call assassinations. *Reuters*

Koizumi pledges reforms as support rate plummets

KOIZUMI

TOKYO—His support rates sinking and his reform credentials in doubt, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi vowed anew on Monday to forge ahead with vital but painful change to get Japan's economy back on track.

Koizumi, addressing parliament, promised to battle the deflation plaguing the world's second largest economy and prevent a financial crisis that some experts fear could come soon.

He offered no quick fixes to end the nation's third recession in a decade. Instead, he echoed words of encouragement offered by the late Emperor Hirohito after Japan's defeat in World War II.

"I hope the people will be as heroic as those pine trees, standing evergreen despite the drifts of snow," Koizumi quoted the emperor as saying in a poem written in January 1946 amidst the devastation of defeat and occupation.

"Recalling the dedicated efforts of our ancestors . . . should not we also confront our present troubles heroically?" Koizumi said in a policy speech.

Koizumi's popularity—almost his sole weapon against anti-reform forces in his Liberal Democratic Party—has fallen sharply since he fired controversial Makiko Tanaka as foreign minister last week to end a feud with top bureaucrats and their political backers that had delayed steps to prop up the economy. *Reuters*

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Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
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Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers particularly on the Eastern section.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI30° Lo 18°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 22° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 19°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/05/02

Japan bank rejects grant to San Roque dam

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—A Japanese bank has turned down the grant of an P8.6-million loan for the San Roque multi-purpose (SRMP) dam's irrigation component after the Benguet provincial council refused to endorse the project.

The irrigation project, which includes a 70-hectare re-regulating pond with a capacity of 4.6 million cubic meters of water, and irrigation canals, is one of the components of the P$1.2-billion dam. It is expected to benefit 80,000 farmers in Tarlac and Pangasinan.

Former Nueva Ecija Rep. Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for Northern Luzon, said with the refusal of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Philippine government may apply for a loan from other international funding agencies.

Diaz met here with Gov. Victor Agbayani and officials of the National Power Corp., San Roque Power Corp., National Irrigation Authority and other agencies to map out plans for the dam's irrigation component.

The re-regulating pond will serve as an impounding basin for water used for power generation and irrigation.

"The dam's power component will be operational by May next year, so we have only a year-and-a-half to come up with a solution. But we need not worry because Diaz has assured us that the problem will be solved," Agbayani said.

He insinuated that there was deception by the project proponents about the irrigation component after it was not built simultaneously with the dam.

"We were made to believe that it was an assured component of the dam project," he said.

He quoted a letter from the SRMP saying that the "re-regulating pond was included in the (build-operate-transfer) documents but the option was not exercised."

"Perhaps the option to build the pond would have been taken if the funding source was assured, but JBIC refused to grant the loan because of several reasons, foremost of which is the refusal of the Benguet provincial council to pass a resolution endorsing the project," he said.

He cited the petition of about 50 gold panners in San Manuel town who said they would lose their livelihood with the construction of the pond.

"There are only 50 gold panners to be affected but there will be 80,000 farmers who will benefit from the irrigation component. Their petition was cited by the bank as a reason (they) refused loan," Agbayani said. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Naga residents welcome Pinoy papal nuncio

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Bicolanos yesterday proudly welcomed the highest-ranking Bicolano prelate in the Church hierarchy, Archbishop Aldolfo Tito Yllana, who arrived from the Pili airport with a motorcade.

Yllana is the second Filipino to be appointed by the Pope as papal nuncio.

Schoolchildren along the road cheerfully waved at Yllana, who smiled back.

The papal nuncio stayed at the Bishop's Palace where he conducted a press conference with local journalists.

Yllana said he was honored to serve the Church but that he could not choose his assignment in his own country.

Except for the Rome and Italy, whose papal nuncios are usually citizens there, countries are assigned with papal nuncios who are not from these places, he said.

Yllana said the arrangement was meant to avoid conflict of interest in which the local Church and devotees might be embroiled in and in order to deliver objectively the interest of the Holy See.

He said the diplomatic consideration of a papal nuncio was just secondary to his ecclesiastic mission to let the Catholic devotees feel the presence of the Pope and the Church.

Yllana, who finished his elementary, high school and college here, said he would do whatever the Pope wanted him to do in his mission because he represented his office.

Pierantoni kidnappers want ₱20M

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Kidnappers of Italian missionary Giuseppi Pierantoni are insisting on the payment of ransom in exchange for his liberty.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, chief of the Task Force Giuseppi, said the kidnappers relayed the demand through a Catholic Church emissary whom he did not identify.

He said the Pentagon kidnap gang had varied ransom demands. At first, it asked for P400,000, which was later raised to P10 million and again to P50 million.

"Now, the latest information we got from the religious group was that the kidnappers pegged the demand at P20 million," Atutubo told radio dxMS here.

But the Catholic Church said it has no money to pay the ransom.

Pagadian Bishop Zacharias Jimenez said that even if the Church has the funds, it would not allow itself to be part of the cottage industry by paying ransom.

Citing Army intelligence reports and data from military informers, Atutubo said Pierantonni was still in the hinterland of Lanao del Sur under the custody of Pentagon field commander Ramsy.

Chief Supt. Akmad Omar, police chief in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the priest and his captors were always on the run due to intensified military operations.

"He was being moved from place to place and was made to wear a *malong* (a Muslim drape) to confuse pursuing lawmen," Omar told reporters.

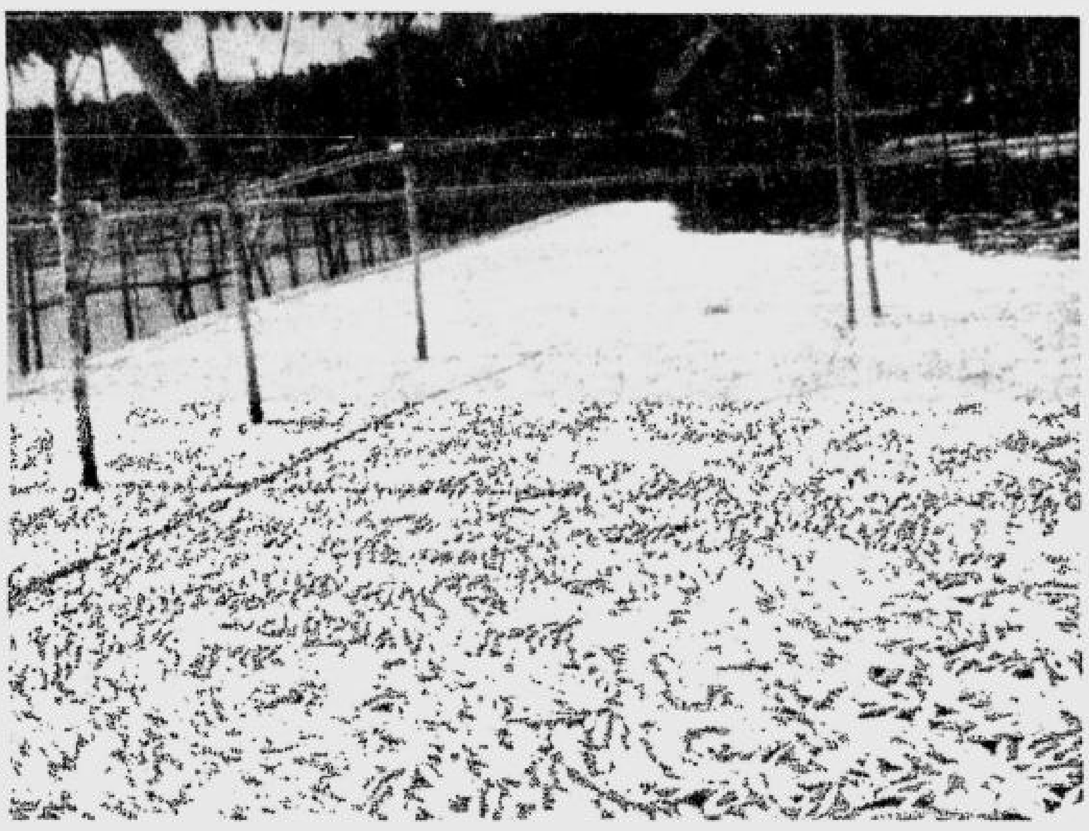
Pierantoni, who celebrated his 45th birthday on Jan. 23 in captivity, was seized in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, in October last year.

Local leaders and Muslim religious representatives have been working for his release, but local politicians have been reportedly meddling.

Reports said credit-grabbing in case Pierantoni is rescued was causing the delay in the release.

Some groups also reportedly offered to facilitate the release but are asking P500,000 in mobilization fund. The request was turned down by Church leaders, who said they had no money.

"We continue to pray that Father Giuseppi will soon rejoin us," Jimenez said.



DEAD "bangus" worth millions of pesos float inside fish cages due to pollution caused by the fish culture industry itself. YOLANDA FUERTES/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Another fish kill hits Bolinao

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—Another massive fish kill hit this town on Sunday, the second in three days, damaging about P400 million worth of *bangus* (milkfish) being cultured in fish cages.

Local officials and residents trooped to the waters off Guiguiwanen and Luciente II villages to clear the beaches of rotting *bangus* left in cages or released into the sea by fish pen operators.

Margaret Celeste, an environmental activist, lamented the "worst disaster" that hit the town's fish culture industry but said it could serve as a wake-up call to authorities.

"We hope the authorities will listen to us and put a rein on the massive establishment of fish pens and cages. Our beaches stink because of the dead *bangus* left to rot in the cages," she said.

Celeste, an elder sister of Mayor Jesus Celeste, said she raised concern about the proliferation of the fishery structures weeks before the fish kill occurred.

Her chief concern was the pollution caused by the fish culture operation, "which in the long run may affect the Bolinao-Anda coral reef system," she said.

"Sadly, the reaction of the municipal council was lukewarm when I brought the issue during a public hearing held three days before the fish kill occurred last week."

Records of the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission showed 600 fish pens and 467 fish cages in this town.

Of the fish cages, 353 are in Guiguiwanen and Luciente II where the fish kill occurred.

Mayor Celeste said he had a deep pit dug in Luciente II where hundreds of tons of *bangus* were buried.

"Many more *bangus* are dying. While other operators had hastily harvested their fish, there was not enough ice to preserve them," he said.

The town, where fishing is the principal livelihood, has no cold storage facilities for fish.

Celeste, who owns some fish cages, said the biggest operator lost more than P40 million.

He said caretakers could have released the dead *bangus* into the sea, thinking these would be swept away by the current.

"But there was no movement of the sea, so the *bangus* were stuck in the water near the beaches," he said. "We had to stop the operation temporarily."

Celeste said the town's coastal development plan should be strictly implemented. The plan pinpoints areas where fish pens and cages could be established, but with "some changes."

"For instance, under the plan, fish pens can be put up, but we will do away with those fishing structures because they are already obsolete. We will just continue with the fish cages, which are less pollutive, and we will regulate them," he said.

CAFGU RECRUITMENT PLAN

Negros rebels hit back at bishops

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Bongcayao Brigade yesterday criticized the Catholic bishops in the four dioceses of Negros for issuing a "premature" statement on plans to recruit its members as militiamen.

Carapali Luwalhati, RPA-ABB national commander, said it was too early for the bishops to be alarmed about the supposed integration because the plan had not been discussed between his group and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita heads the government's panel negotiating peace with the RPA-ABB.

Luwalhati said his group would also not agree to be integrated in the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus) "as a matter of principle."

He accused the bishops of sowing intrigue, claiming they had been "desperate to discredit the RPA-ABB peace talks with the government."

"(The bishops) should be responsible about what they say because they belong to the Church," he said.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra, Dumaguete Bishop John Du, San Carlos Bishop Jose Advincula and Msgr. Rogelio Cruz, administrator of the Diocese of Kabankalan issued a joint statement on Sunday, calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo not to allow members of the RPA to be turned into Cafgus.

They expressed "deep alarm" over Ermita's recent statement that the RPA-ABB rebels might be recruited as Cafgus.

According to the bishops, Ermita said the rebels could retain their firearms as provided in their peace agreement with the government.

"Recent experience as well as lessons of the past have taught us real peace is never attained through the barrel of the gun," the bishops said in a statement.

But Luwalhati said Ermita had not informed or discussed with them about the integration of their troops into paramilitary units.

He said the discussions now were about confidence-building measures before the start of the actual peace talks.

3 kids die in Cotabato grenade explosion

COTABATO CITY—Three children were killed while five others were hurt when the rifle grenade they were playing with went off in a remote village in Cotabato on Saturday afternoon.

Police identified the victims as Noel Daquil Ramos, 14; Harris Selgas, 10; and Jerson Aboabo, 11, all of Barangay Ranggayen in Alamada town.

Senior Insp. Ruvy Labio, police chief of Alamada, said some 10 children with toy guns were playing a war game on a farm lot owned by a certain Nestor Atendido.

Ramos reportedly discovered a rifle grenade. He and his playmates brought the explosive at the back of barangay multi-purpose building where they continued their game.

Survivors said Ramos hit the explosive against a tree, causing it to explode. He suffered shrapnel injuries and died instantly.

The other victims died at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center here.

Wounded were John Ray Aboabo, 12; Kevin Aboabo, 6; Jay Mark Alem, 9; Gerry Monar, 7; and Dennis Ganag, 10.

Police invited Atendido for questioning. ***Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

SUSPECTED Chinese poachers await their fate in Puerto Princesa City. JOFELLE TESORIO/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Poaching raps vs 95 Chinese pressed

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Authorities here vowed to "push to the limits" the filing of charges against 95 (not 52 as earlier reported) Chinese nationals, including four minors, who were arrested in the Tubbataha Reef last week.

Inquest proceedings were held Sunday to immediately lodge cases of illegal entry, poaching and violation of the Philippine Wildlife Act and the Fisheries Code against the Chinese.

The foreigners are set to be sent to the provincial jail today.

Affidavits of witnesses were jointly prepared by the Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff, Philippine Coast Guard, Western Command, and the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park Office.

The National Bureau of Investigation has also been conducting its inquiry.

The 95 Chinese were caught aboard four boats by Philippine Navy gunboat PG-375 while fishing at 3.5 nautical miles off the Tubbataha Reef ranger station in Cagayancillo, Palawan.

The vessels, identified only by Nos. 09016, 13089, 02078 and 03033, came from Hainan, China, and had complete navigational facilities, including radar for locating fish and single-side band radio.

Authorities found 25 dinghies made of fiberglass, 50 sea turtles, shark meat, a roll of fuse for explosives, blasting caps, chemicals, 10 fan corals, 10 sacks of dried sea cucumber, about 400 kilos of dried clam meat (*Tridacna gigas*) and 13 live *mameng*, a rare fish species.

Other pieces of evidence were reportedly thrown into the water while the Chinese were being pursued.

The Coast Guard also found four maps of Palawan in Chinese characters. According to PCSDS lawyer Adelle Villena, the maps could prove that the Chinese intended to enter Palawan waters.

The Tubbataha Reef and other areas with rich marine resources were marked on the maps.

Court cases filed against Chinese nationals who were caught in recent months have been dismissed.

US drops RP from list of loan beneficiaries

From page A1

The Philippines may even lose a P22-billion loan package from the World Bank for Mindanao because of slow project implementation.

A World Bank mission headed by Rajul Raturi has threatened to cancel the loan as implementation of projects under the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) "is far from ideal."

The MRDP is a 12-year project aimed at improving the agriculture sector in at least five provinces by constructing farm-to-market roads and water supply and irrigation facilities, and by setting aside a community fund for coastal and marine bio-diversity conservation.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday urged the US government to reconsider its decision to delist the Philippines from the US Public Law 480 Program, also known as the Food for Peace program, which seeks to expand export markets for US agricultural commodities.

"In this time of fund scarcity, the Philippine government needs massive assistance for its agricultural modernization programs. The loss of the PL 480 funds will be a serious setback to the modernization efforts," Angara said in a statement.

Under the PL 480, the US government ships agricultural commodities such as rice, yellow corn and soya beans to recipient countries.

These are then sold by the Philippine government to raise funds for projects directly related to agricultural modernization.

Last year, the Philippine government got $40 million worth of commodities under the program, which was negotiated by Angara during his term as agriculture secretary.

Training

Proceeds of this particular commodity loan are used to finance training, education and biotechnology programs, according to Angara.

During a hearing for the Department of Agriculture's budget for 2002, Angara had already warned his fellow legislators against allocating P1.5 billion of the fund for the use of municipal mayors.

Despite Angara's warning, the government re-channeled the money, prompting the US government to remove the Philippines from the list of beneficiary-countries.

"The Official Development Assistance (ODA) source expects compliance with the terms of assistance. In the case of the PL 480 Program, the Philippine government should see to it that there are no fund diversions," Angara said.

During the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Washington last November, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor disclosed that the United States agreed to extend about $40 million worth of commodity loans under the PL 480 Program.

He said the amount matched the commodity loan that the country had obtained from the United States earlier that year.

Montemayor said the loans' would be in the form of surplus rice, corn, soybean meal and feed peas, which the Philippine government could sell.

In Mindanao, recipients of the World Bank loan are trying to speed up the implementation of the MRDP.

Renato Manantan, MRDP program director, said the slow implementation of projects was largely due to the delay in the release of funds from the government.

"The projects are still coping with the lingering effects of the late release of the funds. That was the situation when the World Bank mission came," Manantan said.

In a recent meeting with representatives of MRDP-covered provinces in Compostela Valley, Raturi said that only a small portion of the loan was spent, three years after the program started in the five pilot areas of Agusan del Sur, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and Compostela Valley.

Manantan said the MRDP considered Raturi's statement not a threat but an attempt by the World Bank to correct the defects in project implementation.

June 30 deadline

Manantan said the issue had been resolved with the World Bank agreeing to a June 30 deadline, which local government units had set for the speeding up of the implementation of projects.

Unless the local government units meet the deadline, the World Bank will withdraw the loan, according to Raturi. He said canceling the loan would give the Philippines "a very bad image."

"If you don't do it this time, you will have no other time," Raturi warned. The World Bank wants the recipient-provinces to spend 60 percent of their loaned amount by June.

Montemayor said he was optimistic that the projects would continue despite the unfavorable findings of the World Bank team.

He aired this optimism after reports indicated that the first phase of the program is almost complete.

Phase 1 of the project, covering at least 32 towns, started in March 2000 and is expected to end in 2003. Phase 2, which covers 13 provinces, will commence on 2004.

Montemayor said the Raturi group's assessment did not discourage the government from pushing on with the projects.

The agriculture secretary said the Macapagal administration viewed the program as the "key to unlock the development of Mindanao." ***With reports from Anthony S. Allada and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Japan sex slave: Gang-raped at 14, dead at 74

From page A1

heard members of the group Lila Pilipina, then led by Nelia Sancho, calling on women like herself to come out, speak up and formally seek redress from Japan.

In 1992, Santillan and Rosa Henson came forward. They were among the first Filipino women to publicly admit having been forced into sexual slavery during the last world war.

But the number of comfort women fighting for justice is dwindling. Henson died last year. Santillan's passing brought to 34 the number of those who died without seeing the dawn.

Their demand for an official apology and financial compensation from Japan awaits decision at the Tokyo Supreme Court.

Yesterday, the survivors mourned Santillan's death. They could not attend her burial in Antique, so they marked the sad occasion by picketing the Japanese Embassy on Roxas Boulevard.

They lighted candles, offered a wreath and left a gravestone in front of the embassy.

War crimes

"We want to remind the Japanese government headed by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of its legal responsibility for the war crimes committed against comfort women during World War II," said Lila Pilipina spokesperson Narcisa Claveria, 70.

"We have lighted 34 candles because that is the number of *lolas* (grandmothers) from Lila Pilipina who have passed away," said Richelda Extremadura, the group's vice president.

Claveria lamented the glacial pace of the comfort women's case. "They are just waiting for us to die one by one," she said in Filipino. "They think that when we are all dead, what we're fighting for will be completely forgotten."

Extremadura reminded Koizumi and the rest of the world that "the comfort women are here still seeking justice."

"How can they allow a dead comfort woman to be laid to rest without giving her justice?" she said.

At least 46 Filipino comfort women filed the case against the Japanese government. Santillan and Henson were among those who testified before the Tokyo District Court in September 1997.

Inspired by this display of zeal and courage, more Filipino comfort women came out to tell their stories, raising their number to a peak of 174.

But now they're dying off.

"We were violated when we were young, and they continue to inflict pain on us by continuing to ignore us," Claveria said yesterday.

Just a child

In her testimony, Santillan said she was 14 years old when soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army came to her hometown in Antique in 1943 and captured and raped her.

She did not even have pubic hair at the time and had yet to menstruate, she said. All she knew, she said, was that she was a child then and the Japanese soldiers took away her youth.

She was held captive for several months, Santillan said. She lost count of those who ravaged her, she said, but never forgot the pain they inflicted not only on her body but also her very soul.

The lone survivor in a brood of eight, Santillan helped raise the children of her cousins.

At one point in her testimony, Santillan said she did not know how she managed to survive after her wartime agony.

"I would have preferred that they killed me along with my family," she said. "I would have preferred that than being made to suffer alone, to be gang-raped, and later haunted by the sight of seeing my family fall one by one in front of me."

"I was good as dead," she told the Tokyo court. "But God made me live this long, and He gave me the courage to come out, to tell the whole world my story, and to remind the people that war destroys lives."

'Nur' out of jail, bares all at 'Kapihan'

From page A1

"(I spend my time in detention)" the same way I (spent my time) when I was governor of the ARMM," the faux Misuari told the Kapihan sa Manila news forum at the Manila Hotel.

And what was that? "Doing nothing," came Nepomuceno's quick reply. The impersonator had his audience, led by INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz and including former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, laughing and even taking down notes.

Nepomuceno-Misuari said he welcomed the presence of US troops in Basilan.

"The more Americans, the better for the Abu Sayyaf," he said. "The more Americans, the more kidnap victims!"

Nepomuceno was the lone guest at the breakfast forum.

Garbed in a black suit and sporting a Muslim cap, "Misuari" gamely delivered the necessary sound bites and quotes for broadcast and print journalists seeking an exclusive interview with the real Misuari, the former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. After his followers attacked government installations in Jolo last November, Misuari fled the country, only to be arrested in Sabah, Malaysia, in December and repatriated in January.

"I went to Malaysia not to hide but to do some shopping. For your information, I help the economy by putting up *'tiangges'* in Metro Manila, particularly in Greenhills," the fake Misuari said.

"The only bombs we sell are the *'bomba'* in the pirated VCDs," he added.

The real Misuari has been incarcerated and held incommunicado in Fort Sto. Domingo, the police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"Misuari" said he was not being treated fairly by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"All I want from this government is a little respect. I asked for a desktop, they rejected it. I asked for a laptop, they rejected it. I finally asked for a PlayStation, they still rejected it," he said.

"That's why I no longer thought about asking for a gameboy," the guest added.

"Misuari" said that while Ms Macapagal paid a visit on former President Joseph Estrada shortly after his arrest, he has yet to enjoy the same privilege by the Chief Executive.

And what if the President drops by to pay him a visit?

"I'd fall on my knees!"

Why?

"So we could see eye to eye."

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GMA says anti-US protests all rhetoric

From page A1

a press conference.

He expressed concern over the "collateral damage" that could be inflicted on civilians in the event of armed clashes between those participating in the military exercise and rebel groups.

"Where soldiers and rebels are on equal war footing, that's dangerous for our people in Mindanao," he said.

Pimentel conceded that the President's addressing a joint session of Congress would be an "unprecedented move."

"But these are unusual times, and the country and its people need extraordinary moves to counter extraordinary problems," he pointed out.

Way of peace

During the Mass in Chicago, prayers were offered for Ms Macapagal to go the way of peace in dealing with terrorism.

Goedard said his first reaction to the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States was: "How can anyone get away with this? We have to retaliate."

"But after reading the Scriptures, I felt a little uneasy," he said.

But all this appeared to have little effect on the President, who said: "We have put a face on terrorism, now we must put a face on this war."

She said her administration had isolated the Abu Sayyaf and was dealing with other rebel Moro groups through dialogue and negotiation.

"From the small island of Basilan to the great island of Manhattan, we have seen what terrorism can do," the President said.

She said military action against the Abu Sayyaf was justified because "we have been fighting terrorism long before the Sept. 11 attacks."

She also said that her administration was getting close to eliminating the Abu Sayyaf, and that US military help would help speed up the process.

Agence France Presse quoted Malacañang as saying yesterday that Jordan's King Abdullah II had offered to help the Philippines in intelligence gathering in its war against the Abu Sayyaf.

The offer was extended to Ms Macapagal when the two leaders met on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in New York, the Palace said in a statement.

The king supposedly told the Filipino leader that his country provided substantial intelligence to the US government.

"He told me that they might as well share the information directly (with) us," Ms Macapagal was quoted as saying.

In a speech before the economic leaders of Chicago, the President repeated her appeal for the international coalition against terror to evolve into a coalition to fight poverty.

"It is not poverty that breeds terrorism. It is evil. But poverty creates the conditions that make recruitment of terrorists easier," she said, adding:

"We cannot have another generation of poor from whom terrorism can take root. Right now one-fifth of the world population is living on less than a dollar a day. That is where terrorism takes root, that is where terrorism becomes fertile."

After spending not more than 10 hours in Chicago, the President and her husband, Mr. Jose Miguel Arroyo flew to San Francisco, where they were to take a plane to Manila.

Same respect

Noting that the President had been briefing audiences in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States on the situation in Mindanao, Pimentel said: "I think that our people are entitled to the same respect and privilege, if not more than the foreigners."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he saw no need for such a joint session, although he conceded that the matter was "dependent on the President's discretion."

Drilon said it was enough that the President briefed senators during the National Security Council meeting last month that was also attended by opposition leaders.

He also pointed out that her security advisers had already appeared before the Senate committees on foreign relations and on national defense, where they defended the government's position on the Balikatan.

Drilon said the Senate expected to get a clearer picture of Malacanang's position on the military exercise when Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona appears at the resumption of the joint-committee inquiry on Thursday.

But militant groups, including the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Solidarity of Peasants against US Intervention, yesterday continued to protest the conduct of the Balikatan in the streets of Manila, Cebu City and Baguio City.

Terms of reference

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera said the President would review the terms of reference (TOR) of the Balikatan when she arrives today from the United States.

"As of now, nothing has been finalized," Cabrera said at a press briefing in Malacañang even as US forces continued to arrive in Mindanao.

The TOR will define the exact role to be played by some 660 US military personnel, of whom 160 consisting of the elite Green Berets will join Filipino troops in Basilan.

"(The TOR) will be shown to the President and probably we can announce it in the next few days," Cabrera said. ''It (will only be) a matter of days before this is ironed out."

Cabrera admitted that the Green Berets would accompany Filipino troops in supposed test missions against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said the point of the exercise was to "approximate" actual military operations against the bandit group.

"Since training is in counter-terrorism operations, the training will be held in Basilan itself. They'll go into that area where the Abu Sayyaf (is)," he said.

But Cabrera added that the Americans would be at "command posts" and would not be included in the main battle groups.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the controversial provision in the TOR was formulated years ago and used in previous joint military exercises.

Adan said that provision was in existence during the tenure of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon as AFP chief of staff.

Biazon had earlier noted that under the provision in question, US commanders were to be given latitude to initiate unilateral military action if they determined that their forces were under threat and Filipino troops were unable or unwilling to provide protection.

"What I want to emphasize is that those words, `unwilling and unable,' were there ever since Balikatan came into being," Adan told reporters.

He added: "Every year those words are used, and it is only now that they are being questioned.

"That phrase was accepted by the Philippine government during the time of Biazon as (AFP) chief of staff, and nobody made an issue out of it."

Cultural sensitivity

In Zamboanga City, Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the AFP Southern Command, said US troops participating in the Balikatan would be required to take training courses in cultural sensitivity.

"We feel that this is the most important part of the training. Our American friends should know well the (customs and tradition) of the people here, our cultural practices and beliefs," Servando said.

Maj. Cynthia Teramae, public affairs officer of the US Pacific's Special Operation Command, admitted that such training would be "vital to every American because this will give them more insights in the behavior of the people they are working with." ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno, Carlito Pablo, Martin P. Marfil and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; Julie S. Alipala PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP***

Note shows Abu mad at missing TV journalist

From page A1

"Accordingly, they got mad at Arlyn de la Cruz because of the footage she got last November," Capt. Harold Cabunoc, chief of the 10th Scout Ranger Company, said.

But Col. Danilo Servando, the Southern Command's spokesperson, said that it was impossible for De la Cruz to be abducted by the Abu Sayyaf.

She "has access to the ASG, so it's quite impossible that she'll be kidnapped by the group."

The note

Cabunoc further told the Inquirer that a note was recovered in one of their operations, indicating that the Abu Sayyaf, particularly Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya, was mad at the journalist.

The information came from agents of Capt. Rommel Pagayon, the intelligence officer of the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion, which are operating in Maluso town.

But contrary to the Scout Rangers' information, the Inquirer has learned that the buying of the footage on the Burnhams was a direct transaction between Net 25, the TV network of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), where De la Cruz is a news producer of its evening newscast, and the CBS television network.

De La Cruz was not involved in the business transaction, according to a Net 25 source. "If she got anything, it was a bonus from her boss for her good work," added the source.

De la Cruz appeared in the CBS newsmagazine, "48 Hours," hosted by Dan Rather.

Why CBS was chosen

De la Cruz's footage and interview with the Burnhams first appeared in Net 25 on Nov. 26, 2001. The following day the Inquirer ran an account of her interview which was picked up by the foreign news agencies, it being the first since the Burnhams were kidnapped nine months ago.

De la Cruz was also the first journalist to interview the Sipadan hostages on Jolo. De la Cruz is known to have had a long association with the Khaddafy Janjalani faction of the Abu Sayyaf.

According to Inquirer sources at Net 25, the INC TV station was swamped by requests from foreign TV networks to buy the De la Cruz interview. The source said that among the buyers, Net 25 chose CBS News as it agreed to air the interview in its entirety.

Monitor movements

The Scout Rangers admitted that they wanted to monitor the movements of De la Cruz because she might lead them to the location of the Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages.

Supt. Bensali Jabarani, provincial police chief, said De la Cruz was a regular walk-in client of the Abu Sayyaf.

Jabarani told the Inquirer the journalist was last seen in Barangay Sumagdang in Isabela City on Jan. 19, along with a CBS woman reporter from Hong Kong, a Filipina companion carrying a laptop and a Filipino cameraman.

"We saw her alighting from Stephani Marie boat of the Aleson shipping in the morning of Jan. 19," Jabarani said.

On Jan.20, De la Cruz and her companion left Isabela and three days later, on Jan. 23 "we saw her product in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, wherein it showed footage of the Burnham couple, so we believe she has penetrated the Sayyaf camp again," he said.

Sabarani was referring to the film grab from the CBS program, "48 Hours," published by the Inquirer that showed the emaciated Burnham couple.

'Japanese-looking'

In Jolo, Sulu, a source claimed to have met a "Japanese-looking" foreigner who he said was associated with journalist De la Cruz.

The source said the foreigner, whom he described as having difficulty speaking in either English or Tagalog, indicated that he had contact with foreign news agencies.

The foreigner claimed to have seen the Burnham couple in Jolo. He also said he went to Patikul with De la Cruz and that he sold video footage to international television networks for her.

This had resulted in the hostility of government officials who allegedly had a prior agreement with De la Cruz to provide them with copies of her videotapes and facilitated her foray into the hostages' camp. Instead, she had allegedly "spirited away" the videotapes which were supposed to be turned over to these officials.

It was also learned that the Abu Sayyaf often used these video interviews to "pressure" the victims' families or their governments into paying ransom.

According to reports, Abu Sayyaf bandits who had surrendered or were captured by government forces recounted that kidnap victims were tied at the wrists before the video was taken and untied later.

American Jeffrey Schilling was tied to a post before a video of him was taken by the kidnappers themselves.

The Abu Sayyaf commanders had reportedly asked De la Cruz to sell the videotape. She had gone to Sahiron's camp to interview Schilling but was instead presented with their own videotape.

Weeks later, Janjalani's brother Hector and an aide, Habib Taha, were apprehended in Manila while trying to sell the Schilling tape. Both are still under detention.

Cell phone

Attempts to contact De la Cruz by cellular phone have been futile.

There are no cell phone signals beyond 5 km from the town of Jolo.

According to the AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, some sectors within the military think that the missing journalist could just be on one of her "operations" and has not been kidnapped.

"For all intents and purposes, she is a missing person . . . there are some who said that she is being held by the MRG (Misuari Renegade Group)," Adan said.

Yesterday, Adan said military units in the field had been informed about the report.

"As soon as we got information that Arlyn was missing, this information was immediately disseminated to our units," he said.

"However, because of our knowledge and experience in the past . . . some of our men think that this could be another one of her operations. She is very resourceful, a smart reporter. She knows her way . . . we hope she is safe and our troops have been told to look for her," he added.

7 hostages?

De la Cruz is known for her exclusive stories on the Abu Sayyaf.

The other night, Reyes said on a TV program that the Abu Sayyaf still had seven hostages.

Reyes ticked off his figures saying that the Abu Sayyaf, over a two-year period, had kidnapped a total of 140 hostages.

Out of this the military rescued 53; 43 were released and another 14 were recovered.

Six reportedly escaped while 16 others died.

Aside from the Burnhams, the other hostages still being held by the Abu Sayyaf are Edeborah Yap, Joy Marie Lim, Lidio Castro, Hadji Akmad and Sherwin Caraig.

The defense department could not classify Roland Ullah, who was seized in Sipadan on April, 2000, as a victim or a conspirator.

Yap was a nurse who was seized on June 2, 2001 while Lim was seized at the Ateneo de Zamboanga on Oct. 5 last year.

The three others were local residents of Jolo, Sulu, who were seized on Dec. 9 and 29, 2001.

In the same interview, Reyes said that about 300 Abu Sayyaf bandits were ranged against 6,000 troops.

JDV takes . . .

From page A1

Moreno is a co-complainant in the second impeachment suit against Desierto, which alleges that the graft-buster is taking a dive in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam. The first complaint alleges that Desierto received a bribe in exchange for sitting on a case involving the Bank of Southeast Asia.

But De Venecia said the 12th Congress was "not rushing judgment on a case as delicate as the one at hand."

He said that Lakas-NUCD, the biggest party in the House and of which he is the national chair, is not adopting any "party vote" on the complaint.

Neither will the pro-administration Sunshine coalition move for a "coalition vote," he said.

Second complaint

The Speaker also said he has ordered that the charges contained in the second complaint against Desierto be "immediately investigated by the Committee on Good Government."

"I believe that these actions I have taken are best for the chamber, for the Ombudsman and for the Filipino people," he said. "These will now allow the constitutional process to be completely free of partisan bias or political motive."

But Francisco described as "dangerous" De Venecia's referral of the second suit to the committee.

"I hope he (De Venecia) is not trying to preempt the snowballing clamor to forward the second impeachment complaint to the Senate," said Francisco, who is also one of those who filed the second impeachment complaint.

Moreno expressed hope that De Venecia's statement did not mean that the Speaker wanted the House to immediately vote on the House justice committee report dismissing the first impeachment complaint.

"Let's not push for the voting of the justice committee report . . . I hope the leadership would allow enough time for members to assess and study the second impeachment complaint," Moreno said.

If the House votes on the first impeachment complaint, he said, this would kill the second one.

As of presstime yesterday, the House had not started deliberations on the first complaint.

In his one-page statement, De Venecia did not indicate his personal stand.

Supreme Court

Also yesterday, a congressman from Iloilo asked the Supreme Court to declare some provisions of the new rules of impeachment being enforced by the House of Representatives as unconstitutional.

Rep. Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco filed a petition for declaratory relief involving the validity of Sections 16 and 17, Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure in Impeachment Proceedings adopted by the House last Nov. 28.

Syjuco said there was an urgent need for the Supreme Court to "clarify and interpret" the two provisions in the light of constitutional questions arising from the two impeachment complaints filed against Desierto with the House.

In particular, he cited the Feb. 3 editorials of the Inquirer, which, he said, erroneously construed that there was no difference in "filing" and in "initiating" a complaint for impeachment.

He said the editorials "do not help in abating the controversy."

But House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said that Syjuco was not the "proper party" to question the House impeachment rules because he was not among those who endorsed or filed the two impeachment complaints against the Ombudsman.

Gonzales also wondered why Syjuco was questioning the House impeachment rules only now when the House deliberated on them late last year.

"I also cannot for the life of me understand why the Supreme Court will enter here when the Constitution grants Congress the right to enact its own rules," Gonzales said in a separate interview. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

Salonga's proposal 'unrealistic'—Chavez

From page A1

favor of the government the Marcos Swiss deposits.

The Sandiganbayan's first division ruled on Friday that the money could not be turned over to the government because it failed to present "authenticated translations" of the rulings of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

The Swiss Supreme Court had declared that the money belonged to the Marcoses and that much of it had been illegally acquired.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales slammed the Sandiganbayan for reversing its own ruling.

Rosales said the reversal would further delay the compensation for Marcos human rights victims because the Presidential Commission on Good Government would seek reconsideration.

"Justice is long overdue for the Marcos human rights victims," Rosales said in a statement.

The PCGG appears cool to Salonga's suggestion, saying it was an "option" to be taken up only "if it would become legally open" to the Philippine government.

Not a party

In a press conference, PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac said the Swiss government was not even a formal party to the Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Even a treaty between the Philippines and the Swiss government aimed at speeding up the recovery of the Marcos funds was still being negotiated, according to Yorac. She said the protocol would still have to be inserted into the treaty, which has yet to be approved by the Philippine and Swiss governments.

Chavez cited several reasons why Salonga's proposal was untenable, including his claim that litigation is still the "right track" for the Philippine government to recover the Marcos funds the soonest possible time.

"I'm so sorry to dampen the enthusiasm which may have been generated by the news story," the former Solicitor General said of Salonga's proposal.

"But let's stick to facts, reality and the law. Utilizing the proposed protocol will only further delay the proceedings if it is going to be applicable at all," Chavez said.

Yorac said that the PCGG was considering Salonga's proposal but that the commission was not abandoning litigation.

The PCGG still intends to further contest the new ruling of the Sandiganbayan's 1st division either in the anti-graft court itself or in the Supreme Court.

"(Salonga's proposal) is an option that we will consider. But we will take into account that particular option if it becomes legally open to us," Yorac said in a press conference yesterday.

"As of now, even the Swiss government is still not yet a formal party to the protocol, and also the treaty between the Philippines and Switzerland is still being negotiated," the PCGG chair said.

Rightful owners

"But as I said, we will consider all legal options available to us and in the end, we will decide on a procedure that will quickly affirm the return of the money to the Filipino people who are its rightful owners," she said.

By the end of the week, the PCGG will decide whether to submit the authenticated copies of the Swiss Supreme Court decisions of 1997 and 1998 to the Sandiganbayan, or to go straight to the Supreme Court to ask for the reversal of the recent decision.

Yorac said she still believed that the PCGG could get a final judgment from the Supreme Court affirming the original decision of the Sandiganbayan on the forfeiture of the $660 million.

Asked if this final judgment could be obtained from the Supreme Court before the end of the year, Yorac gave a cryptic reply.

"It's only February. Who knows? You know, I also believe in miracles, especially if the miracles are pushed forward by disciplinary action," she said.

Yorac questioned why it took the Sandiganbayan 16 months to come out with a decision that only cited a technical matter in reversing its summary judgment of Sept. 19, 2000 on the forfeiture of the Marcos assets.

"I am amazed that after 16 months of cogitation, they suddenly discovered that there was no authenticated official translation of the decision of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, which traces the ownership of the money being litigated directly to the Marcoses through their foundations," she said.

Outraged

"We are naturally outraged. It seems we have not seen the end of delays," Yorac said.

She said that the technical ground raised by Sandiganbayan Justice Francis Garchitorena was a "unique requirement" since the summary judgment was based on the evidence submitted by the Philippine government and the Marcoses.

Chavez said it was still better for the PCGG to just submit the required authenticated Swiss Supreme Court decisions to the Sandiganbayan, and then move for a final judgment in the Supreme Court.

"The government can target this year as the final stage in the recovery of the Marcos assets through the forfeiture petition," he said.

The former solicitor general also hit what he termed as the "stupidity" of one PCGG commissioner who claimed that the authenticated translations of the decision were submitted in 1991.

"How can that be possible when the Swiss Supreme Court decisions referred to by the Sandiganbayan came out only in December 1997 and January 1998?" Chavez said.

"This stupid statement cannot be the subject of prescription for medication at any drug store," he said referring to PCGG Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento's statements that the authenticated copies of the Swiss court decisions were submitted in 1991.

Seven reasons

Chavez listed down the reasons Salonga's reliance on the Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters was untenable.

"First, the protocol is not even final. It is just a proposal that will possibly take place later this year," he said.

"Second, the protocol cannot be made to apply retroactively to the Philippine case. It will only apply to requests made by the applicant government subsequent to the passage of the protocol," he said.

"Third, what we have is an escrow agreement made between the Philippine government and the four (Swiss) foundations. Certainly the proposal will be resisted by the foundations. Whereas in the escrow account, the four foundations have agreed to a final determination of the funds by the Philippine judiciary," Chavez said.

Fourth, assuming that the proposed protocol applied to the escrow account, the Philippine government would again "have to establish in renewed proceedings in Switzerland, the factual and legal basis of its claim on the funds."

"Fifth, the proposal would in effect set aside the series of decisions of the Swiss Federal Court," Chavez said.

The sixth reason is Swiss lawyer Sergio Salvioni, who is "once again playing on the gullibility of Filipinos." Chavez said Salvioni was originally hired by Salonga, the first PCGG chair.

"He is proposing an alternative route under terms which are still up in the air and Salvioni was fired by the PCGG during Ramos' time," Chavez said.

Again, Salvioni tried to rejoin the government team during the Estrada administration but this was likewise denied, Chavez said.

"Now, Salvioni wants to reenter by playing up this flaky and unreliable scenario," he said.

Chavez said litigation was still the "right track" for the Philippine government.

"All the government has to do is to expedite the final resolution by the Sandiganbayan so that the matter can immediately be elevated to the Supreme Court for final resolution and adjudication," he said. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

MJ shines as Wizards get revenge

WASHINGTON —Michael Jordan scored 23 points, and Richard Hamilton had 21 in his first start in six weeks as the Washington Wizards finally beat the Indiana Pacers 109-89 Sunday.

The Wizards had lost six straight and 15 of 16 games to the Pacers, including a 108-81 loss on Dec. 27, when Jordan scored a career-low six points. The victory was a big one in early playoff maneuvering, with both teams entering two games over .500 and riding two-game winning streaks.

Jordan made 11 of 19 shots and had six assists in 41 minutes.

Jalen Rose, who was ejected after arguing with Jordan, had been the Pacers' best scoring threat in the second half, scoring 22 of his 27 points after halftime.

Complete results: Washington 109, Indiana 89; Miami 94, New York 83; San Antonio 105, Orlando 98, OT; Sacramento 112, Minnesota 107; L.A. Lakers 101, Dallas 94; Charlotte 97, Memphis 79; Boston 104, L.A. Clippers 91; Portland 101, Chicago 96; Phoenix 98, Golden State 97. *AP*

Letran leads 'NC' tennis

DEFENDING champion Letran defeated San Sebastian College, 2-1, yesterday to assume the leadership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association men's tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Knights rolled to their fifth straight win courtesy of Chemiel Mantua and Von Ruelan over Nino Salvador and Arvin Ruel in the doubles, 7-6, 6-2, and Menardo Econg's 6-2, 6-3 second singles victory over Ruel.

San Sebastian, which fell to second place after absorbing its first loss in five outings, won the first singles courtesy of Salvador over Mantua, 6-2, 6-2.

SPORTSWATCH

Brady's glory

NEW ORLEANS—The only thing spectacular about Tom Brady is his success. The sore-ankled former fourth-stringer completed an improbable season for himself and the Patriots on Sunday, guiding New England to its first NFL title with a 20-17 Super Bowl victory over the St. Louis Rams. Brady was selected the game's Most Valuable Player after becoming the youngest quarterback to win the Super Bowl. *AP*

Posada nets $51M

NEW YORK—Jorge Posada became the second-highest paid catcher in baseball when he agreed Sunday to a $51 million, five-year contract with the New York Yankees. Posada's annual average of $10.2 million is second among catchers to the Mets' Mike Piazza, who averages $13 million in a $91 million, seven-year deal that began in 1999. Pittsburgh catcher Jason Kendall is third with a $10 million average under a six-year deal that began last season.

Horse of the year

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario—After winning $1.7 million this season, pacing colt Bettors Delight was voted Canada's horse of the year at the O'Brien Awards. Bettors Delight, owned by John Grant of Hornby, Ontario, was also selected 3-year-old pace colt of the year on Saturday. Bettors Delight won two of the top races last season: the $1 million North American Cup and the Little Brown Jug. *AP*

Gogel tops Pro-Am

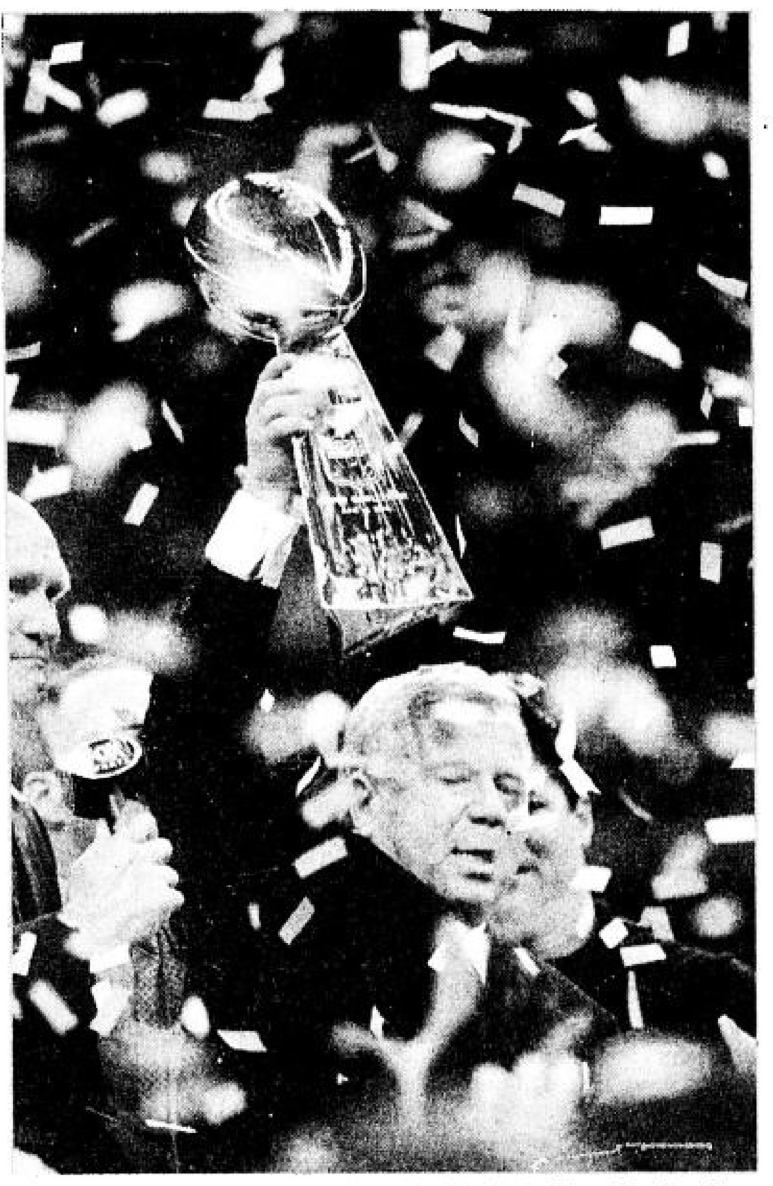
PEBBLE BEACH, California—Matt Gogel holed a 7.5-meter (25-foot) birdie putt on the 18th hole and won the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Sunday when Pat Perez took a triple bogey on the final hole. Two years ago, Gogel was victimized by Tiger Woods' incredible comeback, but this time he closed with a 3-under 69 for his first PGA Tour victory. Gogel finished at 274. Woods tied for the low round of the day, a 4-under 68, but was never a factor Sunday for the second straight year at Pebble Beach, scene of his record-setting victory in the U.S. Open. He finished at 282, eight strokes behind. *AP*

Goosen triumphs

SUN CITY, South Africa—South Africa's Retief Goosen carded a 6-under-par 66 Sunday to win the Dimension Data Pro-Am and 2 million rand ($172,000) at the 6,438-meter (7,042 yard) Gary Player Country Club. Goosen, who spent two days fighting jetlag after an eight-stroke win the previous weekend in the Johnnie Walker Challenge in Perth, Australia, kept young Scott Drummond of Scotland at bay with a scintillating display of iron play. *AP*

BIG UPSET

Patriots edge Rams in Super Bowl



NEW England Patriots owner Robert Kraft holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy aloft after the Patriots won the Super Bowl, 20-17, over the St. Louis Rams yesterday in New Orleans. AP

NEW ORLEANS—The New England Patriots picked the perfect Super Bowl for one of the biggest upsets ever.

Adam Vinatieri kicked a 48-yard field goal as time expired, capping a thrilling final two minutes and giving the Patriots a 20-17 upset over the St. Louis Rams on a red, white and blue Sunday.

"We shocked the world," New England safety Lawyer Milloy said.

The Patriots won on a day filled with patriotic themes inside the Superdome and high security outside. Fans were urged to show up five hours before kickoff to get through a perimeter that looked more like a military compound than a football stadium, with soldiers on the ground and sharpshooters on the roof.

The winning kick came after the Patriots had lost a 17-3 lead in the final 10 minutes. The game appeared headed for the first Super Bowl overtime after St. Louis tied it on a 26-yard pass from Kurt Warner to Ricky Proehl with 1:30 remaining.

But Most Valuable Player Tom Brady, whose status as the starter was in doubt until midweek, drove the Patriots 53 yards with no timeouts to set up the deciding kick.

"No one gave us a chance to win this game," said running back Antowain Smith, who gained 92 yards in 18 carries.

After bypassing individual pregame introductions in favor of running on to the field as a team, the Patriots—wearing uniforms splashed with red, white and blue - went out and won with contributions from up and down their unsung roster.

They did it with Vinatieri's calm-as-can-be kicking, Brady's late leadership and a defense that scored one touchdown, set up two other scores and shut down the most high-powered offense in the NFL. *AP*

Patriotic tributes

NEW ORLEANS— Victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks were honored in an emotional halftime ceremony here Sunday at Super Bowl 36, their names projected onto the roof of a darkened Louisiana Superdome.

With U-2 lead singer Bono belting out the Irish rockers' hit "Where the Streets Have No Name", the list of names was projected onto a banner and on multiple sides of the stands and roof of the 75,000-seat stadium.

Monico vows to unite PWA leaders

By Marc Anthony Reyes

VOWING to bring peace and unity back to a quarrel-plagued association, newly elected Philippine Weightlifting Association president Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday assured that both warring factions will have roles to play under his administration.

Puentevella, chair of the House committee on youth and sports, said he accepted the offer of PWA chair Narcisco Aliño to become the "alternate candidate" in the election which was to pit rivals Jaime Sebastian and Rudy Sicat last weekend.

"I've been a sports leader (as Philippine Sports Commissioner) for seven years, I want to keep that track record clean and free of controversy," Puentevella told the INQUIRER. "I'm here to unite all the factions and give weightlifting a fresh start."

He was elected unanimously by 19 club representatives last Sunday, a day after the PWA board adjourned following the resignation of Sicat. Aliño's son, Mark Rommel, was elected new chair and Sicat was named as vice president.

Garcia, Lim stay put as commissioners

PHILIPPINE Sports Commissioners Richie Garcia and Weena Lim yesterday said they would rather stay put and wait for their replacements rather than disrupt PSC operations by resigning from office.

Garcia finally broke his silence over reports which have been circulating around the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex that he and Lim—the only holdover officials of the agency—are contemplating on stepping down from office. He added that Malacañang last week told them to "stay put and help Eric Buhain."

Guts and Glory derby set today

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's "4th Ucap/EGT Stingers Guts and Glory 7-Cock Derby" is set at 5 p.m. today with 58 quality fights on tap. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Veteran cockers Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez of Tarlac are hosting the event with Alex Tang of Bicol. Teopaco and Rodriguez ruled the 3rd Ucap Derby last week. Runner-up finishers were Patrick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan, Dicky Lim (Winslet) and Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo Hammer).

Today's participants are composed of 26 Ucap members and 11 guest participants from Bicol, Quezon Province, Tarlac, Zambales and Pampanga.

Meanwhile, the long-running "RLB Valentine 6-Cock Derby", a yearly event, fires of on Feb. 12 and 14 with the durable Richard Bates as host.

On Feb. 19 and 21 is the 5th UCAP Arnis Master 7-Cock Derby to be hosted by Raymond Velayo. For inquiries, contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Tagaytay Midlands hosts Harris Cup

THE 6th Paul Harris Cup Golf Tournament, organized by the Rotary Club of Makati Ayala to honor the memory and accomplishments of the founder of Rotary, will be played March 14, Thursday at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club. This was learned from Rotary Club of Makati Ayala president, Mon Mayuga.

Paul Harris was born April 19, 1898 in Racine, Wisconsin, USA. In 1905 as young lawyer in Chicago, he founded a club of young men willing to be helpful to each other. The club was called "Rotary" because they were meeting in rotation at each other's offices. Membership in the Chicago Rotary club grew rapidly, attracting men who had achieved business success. Today, the Rotary movement includes 1.18 million members in 163 countries.

Entry in the prestigious 6th Paul Harris Cup tournament, sponsored by CGU insurance, ING Life Insurance, Aetna Healthcare and Victoria Linen, is limited to Rotary clubs and Rotarians in good standing. A Toyota Altis Sedan will be given to the hole-in-one winner in a specified hole.

Organizing committee chair president elect Titus Almendral said that the proceeds from the Paul Harris Cup would benefit Makati Ayala's various community service projects in Pampanga and Bonifacio. Interested Rotary clubs and Rotarians are invited to call the Paul Harris secretariat at tel. no. 895-1632.

Bring on Tiger, says Els, after win

MELBOURNE, Australia — Confident after a win over a strong field in the Heineken Classic and pleased with how he's playing, Ernie Els says bring on Tiger Woods.

"The game of golf is a strange old game, you get your lows and you get your highs," Els said Sunday after a five-shot win in the joint European-Australasian tour event at Royal Melbourne.

"I feel like I am getting to my highs–I feel I have a lot of golf left."

Els won only one tournament in 2001–the South African Players Championship in December. *AP*

Southern Ladies fires off tomorrow

THE SOUTHERN Ladies Invitational golf tournament fires off tomorrow with defending champion Heidi Chua eyeing a third straight crown at the Del Monte Golf Club here.

Chua will be returning to defend her crown this time carrying a bigger title: the Philippine Ladies Open.

The 25-year-old will be leading no less than 80 players from at least a dozen clubs from all over the country in the 54-hole event organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Challenging her are former champion Carmelette Villaroman, who just won a third straight DHL-NGAP title at Canlubang, Lina de Guzman and Lucy Landicho.

Sponsors are the Philippine Sports Commission, Wide Wide World Express-DHL, Directories Philippines Corp., Air Philippines, Mizuno, Hidden Spring and Perrier, Inc., Mitsubishi Motors, Belmonte Corporation and the Gopez Group of Companies.

Hitting the ceremonial balls in today's Lam-Am are Jimmy Ong, VP for corporate affairs and Human Resources of Del Monte; Manolo Fortich Mayor Soccoro Acosta; golf director Mike Comique and Alice Andrada, treasurer of NGAP and chair of the ladies committee.

Clubs entrees are Alabang, Canlubang, Southwoods, Orchard, Navy, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Valley, Wack Wack, Cebu, Iligan and Pueblo del Oro.

ROD WITH GALLANT CHAMPIONS

Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, is sandwiched by Carmelette Villaroman and Marlon Dizon, the women's and men's champions of the 7th DHL-NGAP Amateur Open which ended on Friday at Canlubang. The victories augured well for Philippine golf as Villaroman, the defending champion, and Dizon, who posted a record 7-shot triumph with his impressive 8-under-par total, installed themselves strong candidates for the RP Team to the Busan Asian Games in September. ROMY HOMILLADA

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Osmeña ballclub joining PBL

A NEW ballclub, owned by Sen. John Osmeña, may see action in the Philippine Basketball League this year. Osmeña said the new team will carry the name of a juice drink called John O which is owned by a company controlled by Osmeña. According to Osmeña, initial talks with PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad has been "very encouraging." *Rocky Nazareno*

Shark eyes sweep today

BEST-OF-SEVEN (3-0)
Game One
Shark 80 Welcoat 79
Game Two
Shark 67 Welcoat 58
Game Three
Shark 61 Welcoat 46

GAME TODAY:
5:00 p.m.—Welcoat vs Shark

By Dennis U. Eroa

SHARK coach Leo Austria perfectly knows how it feels to fall behind by three games in a best-of-seven championship series.

Austria, a former *sacristan*-turned PBA rookie of the year while playing for Shell in 1985, went through the wringer not just once but twice in the last two years.

"The situation is mentally and physically tiring. It seems all the hardwork are for nothing," he said.

Welcoat Paints swept Shark in two Chairman Cup's best-of-seven title series before a reversal of fortunes ensued in the ongoing Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Billed as underdog at the start of the finals, Shark finds itself one game away from sweeping Welcoat and retaining the Challenge Cup title.

Game Four is set today at 5 p.m after the 4:30 p.m. awarding ceremonies for MVP, rookie of the year and the mythical selections.

Shark won Game One in overtime, 80-79, before dumping their rivals in the next two games.

"Everybody is tired.We want to end the series now," said Austria. "Welcoat's morale is quite low and we've got to exploit this advantage. We don't' want to give Welcoat a chance to recover."

The Energy Drink Kings beat the Paintmasters, 4-3, in last year's Challenge Cup. To make it to the finals, Shark needed to beat ICTSI-La Salle twice in the Final Four. Welcoat, the eliminations topnotcher, downed eventual third placer Kutitap Toothpaste in the other semis pairing.

Everything is going rosy for the Energy Drink Kings. After solving Welcoat's zone, Austria and his coaching staff composed of Dayong Mendoza, Jing Ruiz and Boy Galabin have successfully find holes in coach Junel Baculi's rotation.

Six-foot-4 Clarence Cole and Michael Robinson make life harder for Welcoat gunner Ren Ren Ritualo. To limit the damage being done by wide-bodied Allen Patrimonio in the shaded lane, Austria assigned 6-foot-5 Rysal Castro, giving defensive gem Gerarld Ortega the needed breather.

Warren Ybañez, a cinch to emerge as finals MVP, has been dominating Eugene Tan and Celino Cruz in the backcourt. Ervin Sotto has also upstaged Yancy de Ocampo in the middle.

CASTRO (left) catches De Ocampo flatfooted.
ROMY HOMILLADA

FedEx team hoping to deliver in PBA

By Roy Luarca

FEDEX Express hope to deliver right on their initial foray in the PBA.

"Our aim is to put up a team that will live up to our business motto of fast and reliable service that delivers on time," said chair Bert Lina of Airfreight 2100, licensee of FedEx, during the introduction of the Express to the media yesterday. "We always aim high."

Of course, Lina, being a many time benefactor of the Philippine national team and owner of the FedEx Laguna Lakers in the MBA, knows that success won't come easy. What gives him hope is the absence of the other teams' star players and the presence of two imports in the Governors Cup which starts Feb. 10.

The Express acquired quality imports Rodrick Rhodes and Jermaine Walker. The 6-foot-6 Rhodes played for the Houston Rockets in 1997, while Walker, also 6-foot-6, was reportedly the Continental Basketball Association's second leading scorer when he saw action for the Fargo Moorehead Beez.

Support would come from 6-foot-9 Yancy de Ocampo, this year's top draftee, 6-5 Zaldy Realubit, 6-6 Jerry Codiñera, 6-5 Gido Babilonia, 6-4 Ryan Bernardo, 6-3 David Friedhoff, 6-2 Danny Capobres, 6-1 Renren Ritualo, 6-1 Biboy Simon, 6-0 Bong Alvarez, 5-10 Wynne Arboleda, 5-9 Egay Billones and 5-9 Dindo Pumaren.

The streak-shooting Ritualo, however, won't be available yet as he's part of the 30-man candidates pool for the Asian Games in Busan, Korea.

Calling the shots for FedEx Express is multi-titled coach Derick Pumaren.

"It's a decent team which I believe can match up with the best of the league," said Airfreight 2100 president Lito Alvarez, who was also present with PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

Barotac booters prevail

BAROTAC NUEVO, Iloilo—Host Barotac Nuevo Comprehensive High School blanked Cebu Carmen National High, 2-0, Sunday to bag the 18th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football crown here.

Melvin Pelayo, a 15-year-old high school junior, scored both Barotac Nuevo goals. He broke the ice in the 14th minute after Cebu goalie Michael Casas dropped the ball. He struck again in the 33rd with a header from a beautiful cross pass by Paolo Suner, Jr.

It was the second national Coke Go-for-Goal title for coach Francisco Suba and Barotac Nuevo in six years. "The boys played well. They deserved to win," said Suba, whose first successful stint came in 1995.

"The boys ran out of wind in the finals. We were simply outplayed," said Cebu Carmen mentor Graeme McKinnon.

NCR champion La Salle Zobel finished third by beating Iligan's La Salle Academy, 3-1, in an earlier match.

Barotac Nuevo's Ricardo Becite III was named the tourney's most valuable player.

The other individual awardees were Casas, best goalie; Suner, best midfielder, John Sablan, best defender, and Philip John Las Pinas of Cebu Carmen, best striker with seven goals.

Championship is today

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHEN was the last time you saw a team lead by 3-0 in a best-of-seven championship series and still lose it in the end?

You have yet to see one if we go by Philippine standards. Or, to be specific, it has yet to happen in big-time basketball, Philippine style.

Shark Energy Drink presently leads Welcoat Paints, 3-0. Needless to say, Shark will go for the kill today, a mission that isn't hard to achieve considering the huge psychological advantage the Power Boosters currently hold over the Paintmasters.

Today's game will be more mental than physical. It is more of tactics than talent. Squeezing the best from the players will be the main challenge from the coaches of both teams.

Welcoat coach Junel Baculi is a beaten man, no doubt about that. Yet, he can always cook up something that can be gory enough as to spoil whatever it is that Shark coach Leo Austria will try to do to make the party as memorable as when they rose from a 0-2 deficit to win the PBL Challenge Cup, 4-3. Boy, that was really something.

In today's game, Welcoat has nothing to lose, but everything to gain. Meaning, it will lose nothing if it yields a fourth time today because, whether we like it or not, the will to win—if not the will to fight—has become somewhat dulled by the immensity of the thought of needing to overhaul a three-game deficit.

I can almost read what's in Junel's mind going to today's Game 4. Creative juices flowing. I can almost read his lips: Hey, guys, it's not over until it's over. We can still do it. They need four games to win, remember? Let's go back to basics. We can still do it. Let's go out there and give them war. Let's do things one game at a time, awrayt?

In short, Junel needs to summon his last ounce of convincing powers to turn things around. He needs psychic powers to coax his wards to deliver him that most abused word in sports: miracle.

But, alas, there is no parting of the sea here, either. Or the mob rule that was first dished out by the Jews during that infamous Pilate trial from another era.

Only the rule of momentum.

Shark has the momentum because a 3-0 margin is already virtually a prelude to victory. Try catching someone disputing that and it's like trying to catch a firefly in the daytime.

And to further fortify my point, Shark will have to win either today or Game 5 or else, the complexion of the series will change going to Game 6.

To me, the championship for Leo Austria, the unassuming Shark coach, is today. A loss could complicate matters, if not plant the seeds of doubts as to the championship worth of the Power Boosters.

■

Incumbent president Lito Tacujan may not like this but I might yet run for president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association. How can I lose?

I have the support of Ayos (Association of Young Sportswriters).

Pinoy rider ahead

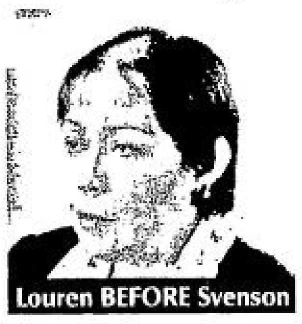
IPOH, Malaysia—The Philippines' Arnel Quirimit retained the blue jersey of Asian leadership after finishing with the 131-man main pack in the Le Tour de Langkawi's third stage here yesterday.

Quirimit's 2:44.44 clocking after the flat 129.6-km journey from Lumut to this mining capital of Perak kept him firmly perched atop the Asian standings.

His fiercest competition could come from either (Ghader Mizbani of the Telekom All-Stars or Japan's Makoto Iijima.

Mizbani, an Asian Games gold medalist from Iran, is still 38 seconds behind Quirimit (7:24:47) while Iijima, the individual champion in the LTDL, 1999, is 58 ticks off the Filipino's mark.

Although not a tested climber, Quirimit vowed to hang on to the blue jersey despite the tour's first major punishment—a 176.4-km journey from Tapnh to Bentong.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Louren Dacanay
Branch Manager,
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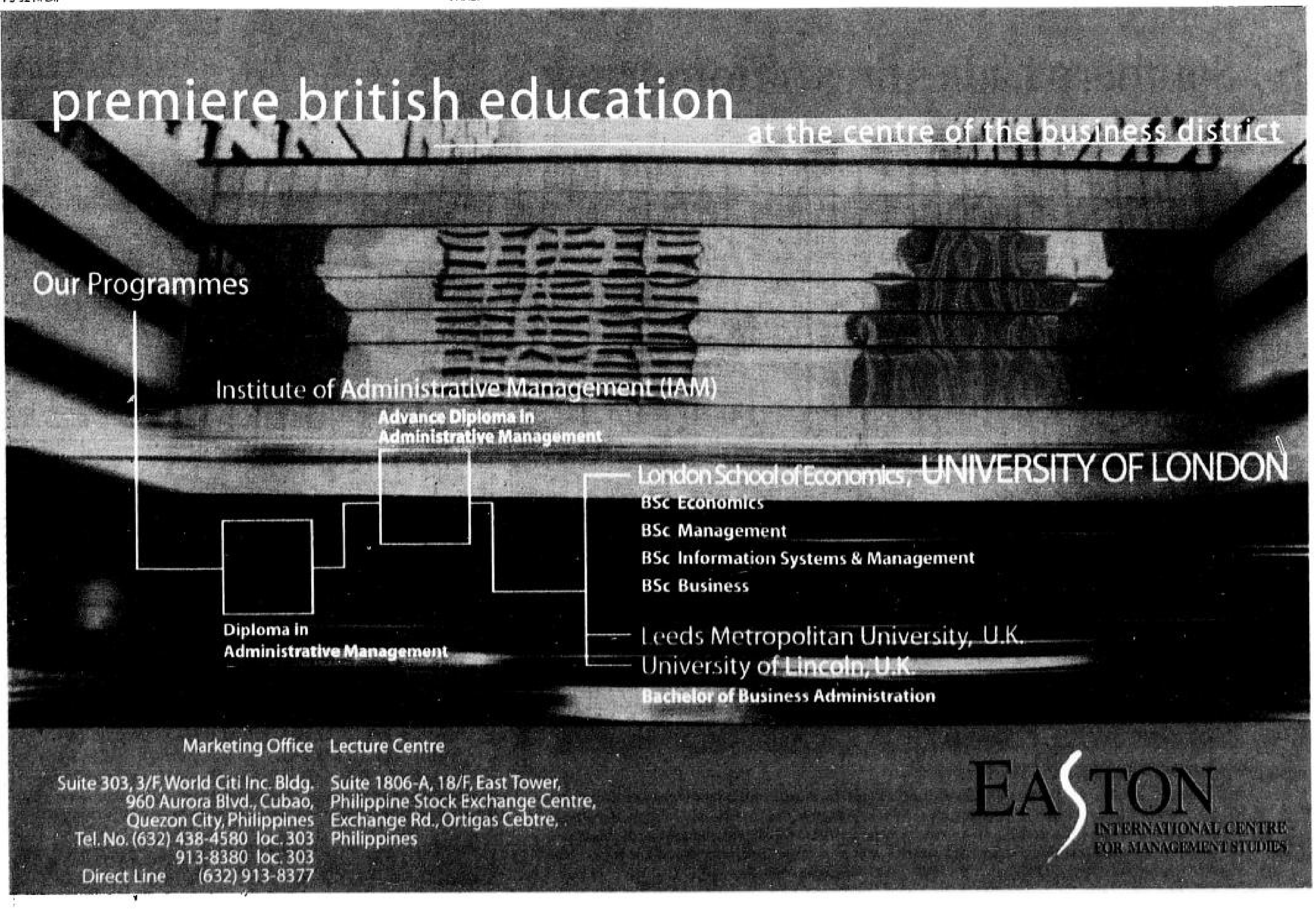
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MMDA chief wants traffic violation fines increased /A18

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Marquez files for annulment and divorce

By Leah Salterio

PARAÑAQUE City Mayor Joey Marquez is set to file for divorce in Las Vegas and for annulment in the Philippines to end his 12-year marriage to actress Alma Moreno, according to a source close to the actor-politician.

Marquez last Thursday flew to the United States, purportedly to have a medical check-up for his recent chest pains. But while in the United States, he will also apply for divorce. He and Moreno got married in Las Vegas in 1989.

When he returns to Manila, Marquez will also file for annulment, according to the same source. He and Moreno had a church wedding in Manila in 1995.

Marquez and Moreno are "irreconcilable," according to the source.

Last week, Marquez admitted he and Moreno have separated. He did not say why, but persistent reports said he had learned that she was having an affair with a younger man from Cebu, disc jockey and radio executive Julian Say, 31.

MARQUEZ/ A18

Naia to be auctioned Friday

By Christian V. Esguerra

AFTER failing to settle P650 million in land taxes since 1962, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will be placed on the auction block, according to officials of Parañaque City.

The auction will take place on Friday, said Patricio Asoy, Parañaque mayor's assistant for legal affairs.

"We don't see any legal impediment that would keep us from proceeding with the auction," Asoy said.

The auction, which will include nine other pieces of property, is part of the local government's efforts to raise funds for several infrastructure projects, according to Asoy.

The city government stands to earn about P1 billion, a portion of which

NAIA TO BE/ A18

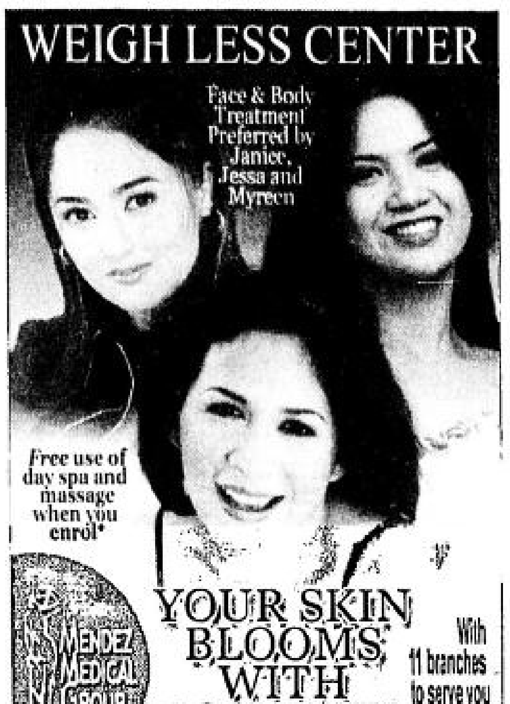
Antipolo sisters' slay suspect known

By Nelson F. Flores

ANTIPOLO City police have identified the principal suspect in the rape and killing of sisters Agnes and Jasmine Baylon.

Witnesses pointed to Jovy Curay, 20, of Sitio Dalig Uno in Barangay Dalig, as one of several men who were seen near the Baylon house on Sampaguita Street in the same barangay on the day the sisters were found dead, according to Antipolo City police chief Supt. Jose Dayco. He said Curay is involved in a string of robbery

ANTIPOLO/ A18



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MMDA chief wants traffic violation fines increased

By Alcuin Papa

ERRING motorists will be facing stiffer fines as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority begins to enforce stricter traffic policies on the streets to curb rampant traffic violations and instill discipline among drivers.

In a news briefing yesterday, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said he plans to ask all Metro Manila mayors to pass an ordinance that will raise traffic violation fines.

Under the new set of fines, those found to be obstructing traffic will be fined P500 instead of the minimum P150. Reckless drivers will be fined P1,000 to P1,500, up from the previous P500.

MMDA officials said these are the most common violations among motorists.

"The increase will be presented to the mayors," Abalos said. "We will also urge them to conduct public hearings on the matter so that all affected sectors will be heard."

The MMDA chair also said the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and the Automobile Association of the Philippines will monitor traffic in the city to help the MMDA enforce its traffic programs. The TUCP and the AAP will submit reports to the MMDA as the need arises, Abalos said.

The other week, the MMDA said they would strictly enforce traffic rules to solve the worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila.

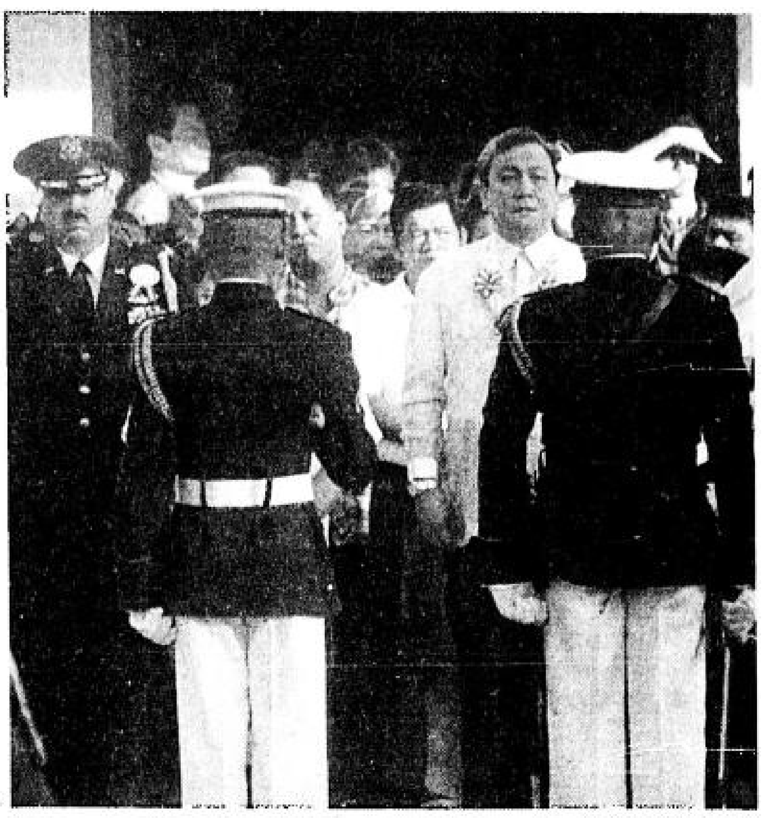
Motorists caught with three traffic violations in one year will face revocation of their licenses and will be required to attend traffic seminars.

In a bid to clean up city streets, Abalos has also ordered MMDA employees to act as "sanitary police."

On top of their office duties, MMDA employees will also have the power to arrest litterbugs.

"We deemed it right to deputize MMDA employees," Abalos said. "They should also be qualified to catch those throwing garbage in city streets."

MMDA employees will attend familiarity seminars on environmental laws and laws against littering before they are given citation tickets to issue against violators.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

HEROES HONORED

United States Army Col. Russel Lewey (left) and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza join World War II veterans, including the man at right, in celebrating the 57th anniversary of the Liberation of Manila. The commemoration was held at the Manila City Hall last Sunday.

Parañaque, Las Piñas shellfish safe—experts

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT IS now safe to consume shellfish and other marine resources from the waters of Las Piñas and Parañaque, but the red tide alert remains in other parts of the country, according to National Red Tide Task Force (NRTTF).

The NRTTF, composed of experts from the health and agriculture departments, lifted the shellfish ban on the two cities on Feb. 2 saying the toxin level has become normal.

The task force, however, said the shellfish ban remains in the Masinloc waters in Zambales, Mandaon and Milagros waters in Masbate, Dumanquilas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur and Balita Bay in Davao Oriental.

Acetes spp., or *alamang*, is still not safe for consumption, according to the experts. Fish, squid, shrimp and crabs should also be fresh and their internal organs removed and washed thoroughly before cooking, they said.

The task force said seven consecutive samplings of shellfish from Las Piñas and Parañaque had tested negative for the paralytic shellfish poisoning toxin.

Among the areas declared free from the red tide toxin were Cavite, Bulacan, Navotas and Malabon in Manila Bay; Malampaya Sound in Palawan Banago waters in Bacolod, Victorias waters in Negros Occidental, Sapian Bay and Tinaging Dagat in Capiz, and the Maqueda and Villareal bays in Western Samar.

Antipolo sisters' slay suspect . . .

(From page A17)

and theft cases.

Dayco said witnesses described the suspect as a fair complexioned man with medium build, about 5-foot-2 tall, and spoke with a Visayan accent.

Police records said Curay robbed Jasmine, 22, of her cell phone last December. Baylon filed criminal charges against Curay, who in turn threatened to kill her, Dayco said.

Dayco said six persons, including Curay's brother-in-law Carlito Buluran, were earlier invited to the police station to shed light on the incident. He said the fingerprints of the six were taken before all of them were released.

Jasmine and her sister Agnes, 26, were found stabbed dead, naked and hogtied in their bedroom at about 8 a.m. Friday. Jasmine's body also bore torture marks.

SPO2 Jesus Nueva, Antipolo City police desk officer, said Jasmine was hit in the head with a hard object and apparently suffocated with a pillow. This led investigators to believe that there was more than one person responsible for the rape and killing of the Baylon sisters.

Nueva said the sisters were attacked and killed in their room between 10 p.m. Thursday and 4 a.m. Friday. He said one of the suspects entered the house by removing three pieces of glass jalousies from the kitchen window and then opening the main door to let in his companions.

The parents of the sisters were in Masbate at the time of the crime, Nueva said.

Jasmine's friend Arnold Jaurigue found the bodies of the sisters when he went to their house on Friday morning after his repeated calls to their cell phones went unanswered. He told police it was unusual for the sisters not to answer his calls.

Sen. Loren Legarda has called on police to bring to justice the killers of the Baylon sisters, urging authorities to make "full use of the wonders of DNA testing in the science of gathering criminal evidence."

She said DNA testing may not be necessary in rape cases where the victims survive.

"In cases where victims are killed and positive identification is left to third party-witnesses or no witnesses at all, DNA evidence could prove useful, if not crucially important," Legarda said.

The senator said the advent of DNA testing has also underscored the need for agents of the law to be fully trained in the proper handling of physical evidence obtained from crime scenes.

She said law officers should be adequately trained in detecting, handling and preserving physical evidence that could later be used in DNA testing.

Vietnamese arrested for hit-and-run death

By Philip C. Tubeza

WESTERN Police District (WPD) members arrested a Vietnamese after his car hit and killed a man on a bicycle on Roxas Boulevard yesterday morning.

Quan Nguyen, 30, of Quirino Avenue, Baclaran, Parañaque, tried to flee but policemen caught him on the flyover at the intersection of Buendia and Roxas Boulevard, said investigator SPO4 Manuel Cenon of the WPD traffic enforcement group.

Cenon identified the victim as driver Arnold Lapina, 28, of Tondo, Manila.

SPO4 Perlito Soler, WPD-TEG investigation section chief, said the accident happened around 5:45 a.m. yesterday on Roxas Boulevard near the San Andres junction.

Lapina was thrown off his bike and hit the concrete pavement. He Lapina died on the spot, Soler added.

Nguyen did not stop and continued driving southwards but WPD patrolmen SPO3 Joselito Guinto, SPO2 Rafael Ligido, and SPO4 Manuel Cenon went after him.

Marquez files for annulment . . .

(From page A17)

In a TV interview aired last Sunday, Say denied that he personally knows Moreno.

Moreno has left the couple's home in Tahanan Village in Parañaque and is renting a house in Ayala Alabang.

The couple's children—Yeoj, Win-Win, VJ and Em-Em -are staying with Marquez.

The source said Marquez is also set to file a P20-million libel suit against the tabloid Saksi Ngayon for publishing a front page story that said he beat up Moreno.

The story was accompanied by a photograph of Moreno with what appeared to a bruised left cheek.

Reunion

THE MARCELO H. del Pilar High School (formerly Bulacan High School) Class '52 will hold its golden reunion, called "Together Again for the Gold," at the residence of class president Amando M. Buhain in Plaridel, Bulacan on Feb. 16, 2002.

Class members from the United States and Canada are coming home for the grand affair. For inquiries, contact Paquita L. Cruz (931-38-70) and Carmelita R. Espino (252-61-61).

Naia . . .

(From page A17)

will be allocated for the construction of a state college, according to Mar Jimenez, chief of the city's public information office.

Marquez initially set the auction before Christmas, but he later decided to give Naia officials a two-month reprieve to settle the unpaid land taxes.

But airport officials still refused to settle the amount, claiming that government-owned and controlled corporations such as the Naia should be exempt from paying land taxes to local governments, Asoy said.

"I think the present (Naia) officials are just refusing to pay," he said. "They just want to know how the local government will react to that, though they know that they really have to pay land taxes."

If there are no takers during the auction, the city government will buy the portion of the international airport located in Parañaque territory, Asoy said.

He said the airport's operations would not be stalled after the auction.

MON Tulfo's column, "On Target," will be back on Thursday.

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CINEMA 1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
11:20/ 2:00/ 4:40/ 7:20/ 10:00
P 13
CINEMA 2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10:35/ 12:50/ 3:05/ 7:35/ 9:50
P 13
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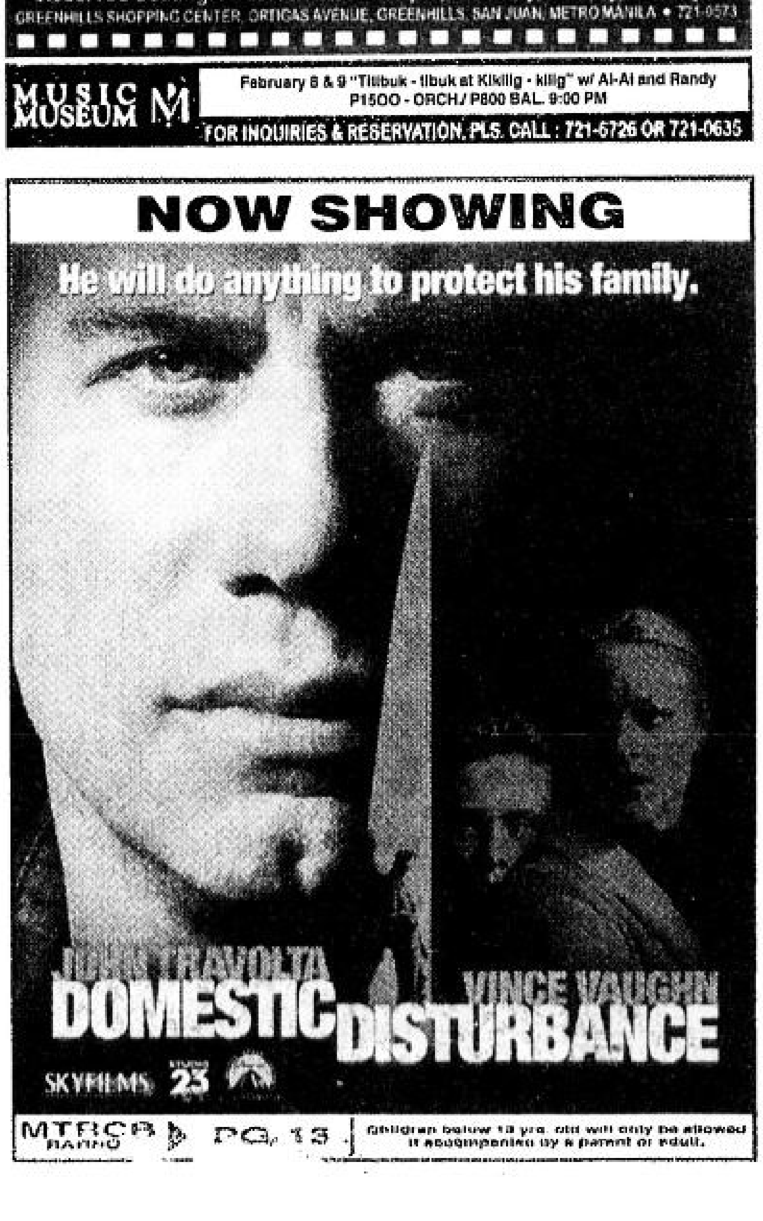

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Don't miss this must-see movie event, described by CNN's Larry King as "the best war movie I've ever seen."

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MOVIE GUIDE

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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (EGS) LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS) HEART IN ATLANTIS
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 GOLD (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 FINAL ANSWER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
6 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 WALANG IWANAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
A ISANG PANAGINIP

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) ISANG PANAGINIP
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 HEART IN ATLANTIS
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 ISANG PANAGINIP

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (SDDS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
8 BUKO PANDAN
9 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 ISANG PANAGINIP

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 ISANG PANAGINIP

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson HUBO
Lords TALK DIRTY TO ME
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 ISANG PANAGINIP

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 HEART IN ATLANTIC
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 FINAL ANSWER

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 FINAL ANSWER

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 FINAL ANSWER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1 THE OTHERS
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY) ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.3276

1 (SDDS) FINAL ANSWER
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) THE OTHERS
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 FINAL ANSWER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 BURLESK KING

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 THE OTHERS
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BUKO PANDAN
2 ON THE LINE
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS ES) FINAL ANSWER

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1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 HEART IN ATLANTIS
7 LORD OF THE RINGS
8 FINAL ANSWER
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 THE OTHERS

THX

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

METRO EAST
632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1 HEART IN ATLANTIS
BLACK HAWK DOWN
2
THE OTHERS
OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3
LORD OF THE RINGS
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5
FINAL ANSWER

NOVALICHES
935-3729 to 31

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 HEART IN ATLANTIS
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7 FINAL ANSWER
8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

IMUS
(046) 471-0196

1 7 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 8 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 FINAL ANSWER
6 ISANG PANAGINIP

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 ZOOLANDER
4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 IRON LADIES
6 WALANG IWANAN

ILOILO
(033) 330-0077 / 0079

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 BURLESK KING
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

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THEATER

MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SISID / TAILS OF EROTIKA
ODEON	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ODEON-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
ROBEN	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DON'T SAY A WORD / GHOST FROM MARS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
REMAR	BLACK HAWK DOWN
REMAR-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
B	BLACK HAWK DOWN
C	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-2	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-3	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-6	THE OTHERS
CINEMA-7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-8	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-14	KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP
CINEMA-15	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-3	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-6	BLACK HAWK DOWN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA

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SM CITY BACOOR
4173698

1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
8 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 THE OTHERS
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 FINAL ANSWER
7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 THE OTHERS
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 FINAL ANSWER
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11 AMERICAN ADOBO
12 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 THE OTHERS
8 AMERICAN ADOBO
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 LORD OF THE RINGS
11 FINAL ANSWER
12 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
3 BLACK HAWKDOWN
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7 THE OTHERS
8 AMERICAN ADOBO
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 ISANG PANAGINIP
11 FINAL ANSWER
12 LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 THE OTHERS
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 AMERICAN ADOBO
10 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
11 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
12 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

SM SOUTHMALL
8066088 • 8066782

1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 THE OTHERS
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7 ISANG PANAGINIP
8 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9 FINAL ANSWER
10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 ZOOLANDER
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 BUKO PANDAN
2 CLOSED
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 LORD OF THE RINGS
7 CLOSED
8 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 SUMMER CATCH
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820905

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

SM CITY DAVAO
2074004

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 AMERICAN AOBO
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How is your career coming along this year?

Starlet: Oh, much better than what was was before!

(Was was – what?)

***

Member of board of judges: Are you nervous tonight?

Contestant: A bit, but no.

(Make up your mind!)

***

Judge: why don't you greet the audience first?

Contestant: OK: Good evening, fellow judges!

(*Patay…*)

***

Judge: Is this your first time to join a contest like this?

Contestant: It's my second.

Judge: Is this experience better than the first?

Contestant: Oh, it's very even best!

(That's what you think!)

***

Another judge: What about you, don't you want to greet the audience first?

Another contestant: OK: *Magandang araw sa kabilang lahat!*

(*Ay! kabila!*)

***

Host: Who is this mystery person?: He is the second son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana?

Contestant: Camille!

(No, Harry. He said son!)

***

Host: Now, what about this mystery person: She was the second wife of Henry the VIII. Who was she?

Contestant: Harry!

(No, Anne Boleyn. He said wife!)

***

Host: Of all the things you've accomplished, what are you proudest of?

Starlet: I'm proudest that, for many years now, I have been my family's bedwinner!

(How many beds have you won all these years?)

***

Host: What about you, what are you proudest of?

Another starlet: That I am a certified yoga!

(Do tell!)

***

Host: How do you keep your body so trim and muscled? What's your secret?

Guest: No secret, really. I'm just careful the fat continent!

(Ano raw?!)

Valentine hearthrobs

STAR Movies' special treat this Valentine month is a package of films starring some of the movie world's top male attractions:

Feb. 9 at 10:15 a.m., "The Hi-Lo Country" tells a tale about the enduring bond of friendship, starring **Billy Crudup**.

Feb. 9 at 9 p.m., "The Beach" topbills **Leonardo DiCaprio** as a young man who discovers that innocence doesn't last forever.

Feb. 16 at 9 p.m., "The Insider" shows how a scientist blows the whistle on the tobacco industry. The relevant drama stars **Russell Crowe**.

Feb. 18 at 9 p.m., Crowe makes another stellar appearance in "Mystery Alaska."

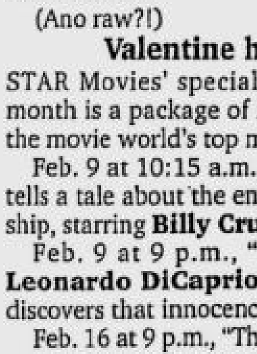
Tribute to John Lennon

ON Feb. 14 at 9 p.m., Star World pays tribute to **John Lennon** by way of the musical special, "Come Together—A Night for John Lennon's Words and Music" (replay on Feb. 15 at 12:30 a.m.)

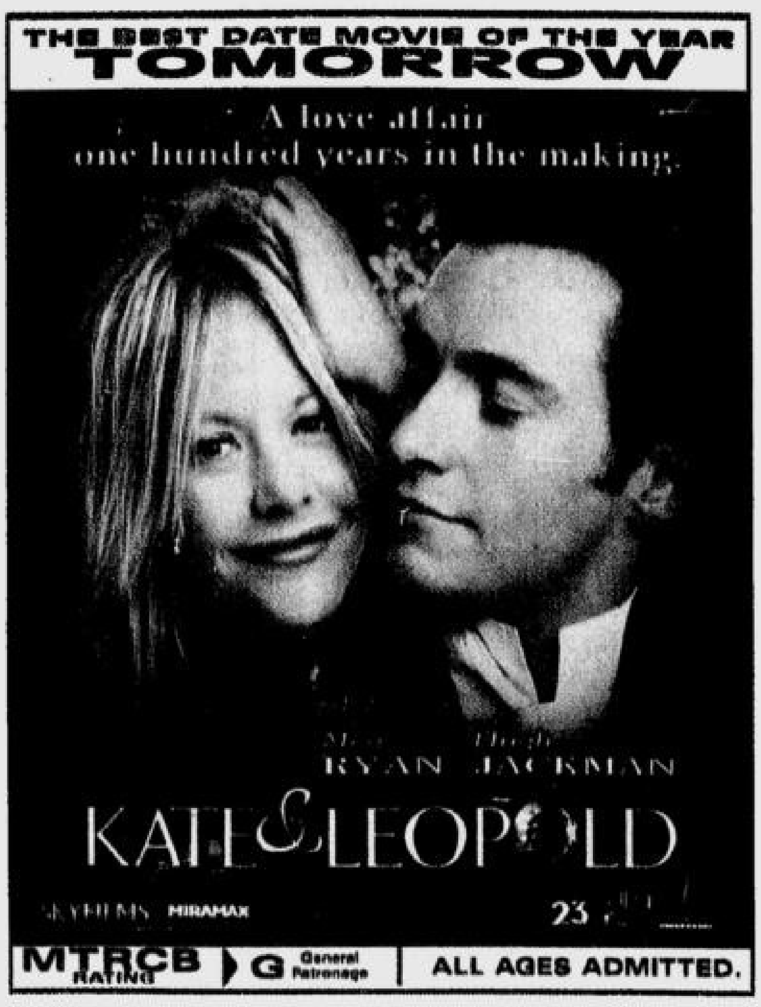
Kevin Spacey hosts the special, and segment presentors include **Ben Stiller**, **Dustin Hoffman**, **James Gandolfini**, **Julia Stiles**, **Steve Buscemi** and **Tim Roth**.

Featured in unique performances of Lennon's songs are **Alanis Morissette**, **Nelly Furtado**, **Dave Matthews**, **Moby**, Stone Temple Pilots, **Shelby Lynne**, **Cyndi Lauper**, **Lou Reed**, **Marc Anthony**, **Yolanda Adams**, **Billy Preston**, **Craig David**, **Natalie Merchant**, **Rufus Wainwright** and **Sean Lennon**.

The show is also a tribute to the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy's victims and rescuers, with the proceeds going to relief organizations.



LENNON



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ANGELICA HOUSTON
JEREMY NORTHAM
JAMES FOX
NICK NOLTE
& UMA THURMAN
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THE GOLDEN BOWL tells the story of an extravagantly rich American widower and his sheltered daughter, both of who marry only to discover that their respective mates are romantically entangled with each other. Set in England and Italy in the early 1900s, THE GOLDEN BOWL is adapted from the celebrated Henry James novel by the award-winning filmmaking team of producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory, and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala
THE GOLDEN BOWL is Henry James' longest, most elaborate, and most ambitious novel, and in it, his writing reaches new levels of complexity and sophistication. James' themes are timeless and universal, as he artfully explores the problems of love and marriage.
Screenings on FEB. 4 (Mon.) & 5 (Tue.)
NOKIA Inquirer

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BLACK HAWK DOWN - P13 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30	BLACK HAWK DOWN - P13 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE - P13 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS - P13 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 11:20, 1:45, 4:10

Matinee P80 Mon-Fri 11:00 am to 1 P.pm screenings. Free Seating

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MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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ANG BAYAN AY NAGHAHANAP NG TOTOONG BAYANI.
HESUS REBOLUSYONARYO
A film by LAV DIAZ
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2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 BLACK HAWK DOWN in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 BLACK HAWK DOWN in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 KAHIT IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 AMERICAN ADOBO in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 9PM Onstage	4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

The Ayala malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI
PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2002
VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER
Watch out for following Valentines shows:
- Shows at the Glorietta 4 Park
Feb. 11 / 6 pm
Vina Morales and Ana Fegi
Feb. 12 / 6 pm
Side A
- Shows at Greenbelt 2
Feb. 14
Ogie Alcasid
Feb. 15
Ariel Rivera

ALABANG
THE AYALA MALL EVENTS
This week's Events
Jan. 15-31
GRAND FIESTA SALE
Feb. 2
ART FOR PEACE
Feb. 2
MULLATO BAND SHOW
Feb. 3
MASSKARA TRIBE PARADE
4 PM - Town Plaza
Feb. 3
PEACE & UNITY THROUGH THE ARTS
6 PM - Activity Center
For inquiries please call ATC customer service at 842-2782

CEBU
CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002
Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)
USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)
Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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Moody's upgrades RP credit outlook

By Clarissa S. Batino

MOODY'S Investors Service yesterday upgraded its credit outlook on the Philippines to stable from negative, citing President Macapagal-Arroyo's efforts to put the country on track to fiscal soundness and sustainable growth.

It said in a statement that the Macapagal administration "has placed the Philippines back on track toward fiscal soundness and sustainable growth."

Philippine government officials were delighted with the unexpected decision of Moody's specially after the New York-based rating firm had indicated in December that it was likely to maintain a negative outlook on the country.

An improved rating from Moody's could push the cost of the government's foreign borrowing even lower and would encourage portfolio and equity investors to again consider putting money in the country. A stable outlook also raises the government hopes that an improved rating would be forthcoming.

"Moody's upgrade is a strong acknowledgement by the international financial community that our fiscal discipline and other macroeconomic reforms have contributed to our strong performance in 2001 and will be a springboard for our economic success," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

President Macapagal said the positive development "ratifies the government economic plan and political agenda" and was a recognition that significant progress had been made in stabilizing the economy.

In particular, Moody's cited the reversal in the downward trend in the performance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which played a key role in containing last year's budget deficit very close to the targeted level of P145 billion.

Manila overshot the ceiling by P2 billion, but the rating agency said the target was "fairly ambitious for the new administration in view of the debilitating fiscal legacy it inherited and the poor external environment it has faced."

Moody's said the government was capable of reducing further the national government budget deficit in 2002 to the targeted level of 3.3 percent of gross domestic product "if its administrative reform efforts are intensified and economic growth remains relatively decent."

The government is targeting a GDP growth of 4-4.5 percent this year compared to last year's better-than-expected 3.4-percent expansion. The budget deficit target for the year is P130 billion.

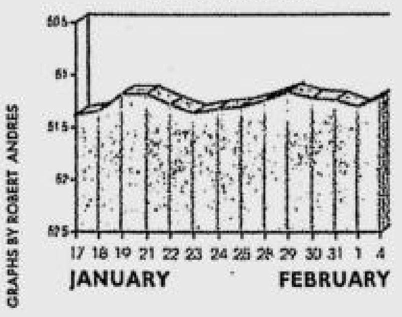
Moody's also noted the external position of the Philippines showed "some areas of strength despite the adverse effects of the weak global economy on the country's export performance," in which merchandise exports fell by more than 15.6 percent from a year earlier.

Official foreign exchange reserves holdings have been preserved at a level that provides insulation from external shocks, and competitive features of the Philippines foreign direct investment environment have helped to sustain such capital inflows, it added.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.22 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 4, 2002

¥133.39 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 4, 2002

GOLD: $286.30/286.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
Feb. 4, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down slightly

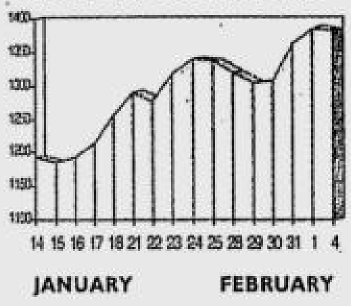
LOCAL stocks had a slow day yesterday and finished mixed, with the main price index moving within a tight band before falling by almost 3 points or 0.21 percent to 1,383.42.

Summit Securities president and PSE director Harry Liu said a pullback was no surprise at this point. "In every market rise you have periods of correction. Right now, a short-term correction is sensible. It is healthy at this point," he said.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas cited the Chinese New Year as another factor influencing the market slowdown.

"The lead-up to the Chinese New Year must be considered when assessing today's market performance. Foreign investor's in particular may be reluctant to do much during this period," he said. *Pippa M. Rendel*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Exports slumped 15.6% to $32.15B in 2001

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOR the first time in 17 years, the Philippines reported a full-year export contraction of 15.6 percent in 2001 from a year ago due to the sluggish demand for electronics arising from the global economic slowdown.

The National Statistics Office yesterday announced that for the month of December alone, the country's export receipts dropped by 24.4 percent year-on-year to $2.64 billion, worse than the annual decline of 20.7 percent in November.

The December export figure represented the worst drop since August of the same year, when export earnings fell by 25.7 percent.

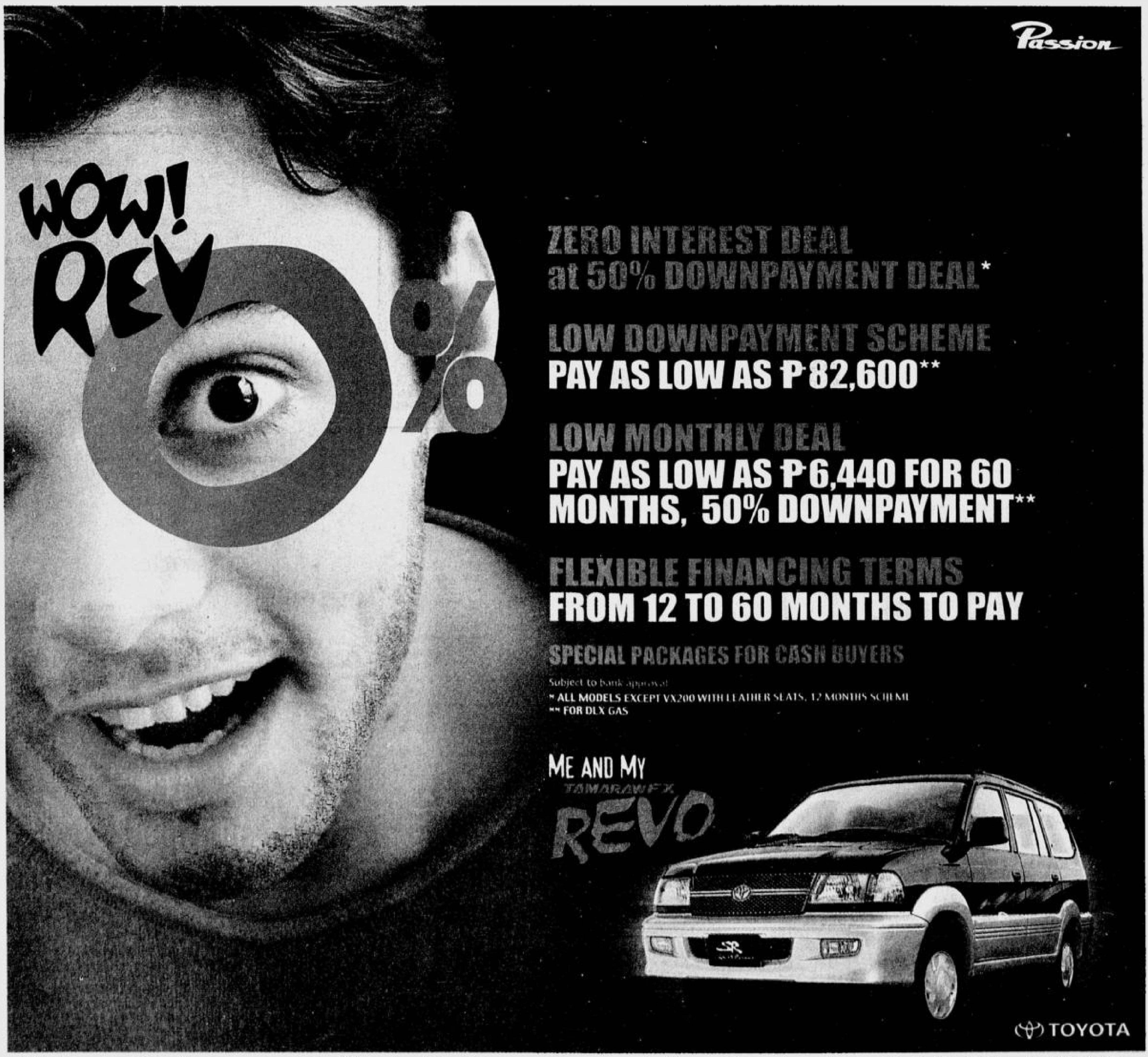
On the other hand, the full-year contraction in 2001 was in line with the government's expectation of a 15-percent drop in exports for the period. The last time the country recorded a full-year contraction in exports was in 1985, the last year of the Marcos dictatorship, which was toppled by the Edsa Revolution of 1986.

In nominal terms, total export revenues for 2001 stood at $32.15 billion, down from $38.08 billion in 2000.

For this year, however, the government is expecting an improvement in the country's export performance in line with the projected rebound in the US economy. The 2002 target is a zero-growth in export revenues.

Electronic components, the country's top dollar earner, dropped by 34.6 percent during the month of December. The sector pumped in $1.36 billion or 51.4 percent of the country's total export revenues of $2.64 billion for the month.

EXPORTS/ B2



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Promo period: Feb. 1-28, 2002

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0211 Series of 2002

Give me a brick

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE PHILIPPINES is still in the watchlist of countries which are open to money laundering. Fine! All of us here can continue to wallow in dirty money.

As a matter of fact, we have so much dirty money in this country, four out of every 10 Filipinos are still poor. That's only 32 million poor people all in all.

It turned out, in that meeting in Hong Kong last week, that the international community still would not believe we had enough safeguards against money laundering.

They did not like our anti-money laundering law. Well, there's no such thing as a perfect law. Even Moses had to rework the Ten Commandments.

* * *

ALL that is fine. It's their opinion. It's just that, even before we can implement the law, they are already saying, albeit very nicely, that in effect it will not work.

As Colonel Banal used to say, if the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and if that's the way the cookie crumbles, then you still cannot get your cake and eat it too.

Minus all those bakery sayings from my father, however, I still don't understand why the international community keeps worrying about money laundering in our country.

Come on, man, give us a break! The biggest money laundering operation is happening in Switzerland right now. Just take a look at the Marcos loot!

And that's the beauty of it! That country has an "approved" anti-money laundering law. Does it work? Well, the Marcos loot is still there.

Now, Switzerland gets no sanction at all. For the Philippines, if they don't like the way we print copies of the laundering law, we get punished. Fair enough.

* * *

BUT here's the clincher, when it comes to fairness. Reports said that credit rating agencies abroad are not about to improve their views on the Philippines. Fine again!

They quoted a financial firm called Salomon Smith Barney. This is not a credit rating agency, mind you! It just likes to talk about our credit rating, perhaps as a hobby.

The company said that foreign rating agencies like Moody's or Fitch would not upgrade the Philippines. It said we have problems in our international payments.

It pointed at our foreign debts. They were too much, apparently, and they would eat into our gains in exports and such. Ergo, the firm said, the peso would likely weaken.

All that is fine! For whatever reason, it's already SOP among foreign financial firms to lambast us. I'm sure they all have positions against the peso exchange rate.

* * *

BUT the report of Salomon Smith Barney is now proving to be way off the mark. Not only that, it is utterly wrong. A credit rating agency already upgraded the Philippines.

An audibly livid Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday that Moody's already changed its "negative" outlook for the Philippines into "positive."

I said "audibly," because I talked to Paeng over the fastest rising radio program in town called "Barangay 1026," on Angel Radyo, 1026 khz, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Paeng, obviously, is still in New York with Gloriaetta. He said the reaction there to the RP presentation was the exact oppositie of what Salomon Smith Barney said.

It turns out that the report, which was even quoted extensively by some local newspapers, was based on old figures. At that time, nothing was right here.

So what explains the upgrade by Moody's? Year-end figures, according to Paeng, showed the country did much better than what everybody expected. And why did everybody expect bad things here? Because, as I said, it's the SOP abroad.

* * *

TODAY the Civil Aeronautics Board, or the CAB, tries to undo the problem which a Cabinet member has done regarding air rights of Philippine carriers in South Korea.

I heard that, in its meeting today, the CAB is set to tackle the ongoing fight between the Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific Airways.

The two are fighting over four weekly flights between the Philippines and South Korea. Cebu Pacific wants all of them, while PAL is asking to split them evenly.

PAL plans to use its two flights for the Cebu-Seoul route, while Cebu Pacific, despite its name, is using all four for the Manila-Seoul route.

Which one do you think finds favor with people in Cebu. Here's a clue. Cebuanos are saying Manila does not need more flights to Seoul. How come I agree?

* * *

MAYBE it's because, today, there are already 21 flights every week between Manila and Seoul. Already, the route has three airlines, namely, PAL, Korean Air, and Asiana, all of them using widebody aircraft, meaning, it's really a crowded route.

PAL pioneered direct flights between Cebu and Seoul, even at a time when no other carrier, local or foreign, dared to serve the route.

Today, South Korea accounts for most of the foreign tourists going to Cebu. Thus PAL thinks that demand is going to rise some more in the Cebu-Seoul route.

Ironically, its congressional franchise requires Cebu Pacific to use Cebu as its home base. So why does it refuse to use new flights to Seoul for its home base?

It seems Cebu Pacific fears it may only lose money, if it uses a frequency of two flights a week. Such a set-up, it believes, is not commercially viable.

Using two flights in a start-up operation like Cebu Pacific's is like, to the airline, giving itself a brick to hit its head with, *aray*! What's that—give me a brick?

* * *

CORRECT me if I'm always right, but I do recall that PAL did it before. PAL started with only two flights between Cebu and Seoul, and also between Manila and Pusan.

Both routes are now as profitable as any between the two countries. PAL already expanded them to four flights a week. Well, if you bring in tourists, you have to take them out somehow.

And yet Cebu Pacific insists on using all four additional flights on the Manila-Seoul route, simply because it needs all of them to make money.

Since when is it anybody's lookout, much less the government's, for private airlines to realize profits? I mean, why must Cebu Pacific want to be special?

Alright, let's even say that the government has an obligation to help a new airline like Cebu Pacific to take off properly and make money.

Does that mean the government must do it at the expense of an existing airline? For it's something like this: For Cebu Pacific to make money, PAL must not grow. How fair is that, anyway?

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4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	180,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	280,000	250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	12,500,000	11,000,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	330,000
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	300,000	250,000
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	230,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,700,000	1,500,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	850,000	750,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	650,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	240,000	
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		8,500,000

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Longer PSE trading hours seen next week

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elena R. Torrijos

THE CLEARING committee of the Philippine Stock Exchange has recommended an extension of the local bourse's trading hours starting Feb. 12.

Persons familiar with the matter said the committee submitted a letter to the floor trading and arbitration committee recommending that trading at the PSE be allowed from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The stock exchange currently starts doing business at 9:30 a.m. and ends when the bell rings at noon. A 30-minute run-up follows to allow brokers and traders to close all pending transactions.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho earlier urged the stock exchange to extend its trading hours so it can take advantage of an apparent recovery in the local equities market.

The main-share PSE composite index closed at a six-month high of 1,386.31 on Friday, gaining another 3.68 percent week-on-week. It closed lower Monday, with profit-taking ending a three-day run late last week that boosted the main index to its highest level since July. News of Moody's upgrading its ratings outlook for the Philippines to stable from negative was largely ignored by the market, as it came just an hour before trading closed. Traders, however, believe the upgrade will boost the market in the long run.

The Phisix closed 0.2 percent lower at 1,383.42 yesterday after a three-day rally that ended Friday with a 24.37-point gain to 1,386.31. Since Wednesday, the market has surged a total of 81.92 points, or 6.3 percent.

PSE director Harry Liu, a former PSE chair, said the clearing committee's recommendation to extend the local bourse's trading hours starting Feb. 12 was feasible, and that the PSE board would likely approve the proposal.

Liu said the incumbent PSE president, Ernest Leung, would only need to present to the board a final action plan.

Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista said she approved of the PSE's plan to extend its trading hours.

Bautista said such a move was timely, considering the PSE emerged as the best-performing stock market in the world according to a poll conducted by the Bloomberg financial news agency.

Court orders AFC to stop granting franchise

THE PASIG Regional Trial Court has ordered American retailer AFC Enterprises Inc. to stop entering into new franchising agreements for Texas Chicken and Popeye Chicken restaurants pending the resolution of a case filed by the Vitarich poultry group.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Vitarich Corp. said the court issued a writ of preliminary injunction in connection with the P582-million lawsuit filed by its subsidiaries last August against AFC and its officers.

Two Vitarich affiliates—Texas Manok Inc. and Popeyes Manok ATBP Inc.—and a wholly owned subsidiary, Philippines Favorite Chicken Inc., filed the case for the undue termination of their franchising agreements for Texas Chicken and Popeye Chicken restaurants.

The defendant, AFC Enterprises or formerly known as America's Favorite Chicken Co., has been doing business as "Texas Chicken," "Church's" and "Popeye."

The Vitarich group had asked the Pasig RTC to declare as null and void the termination of its Texas Chicken and Popeyes franchising agreement with AFC and to compel the American company to return millions of pesos in funds. Vitarich claimed that in February 2001, AFC had agreed in writing to the deferment of the payment of the year's royalties due to the closure of certain local Texas Chicken restaurants as well as the removal of certain commitments under the development agreement.

The company also noted that AFC acknowledged in writing that Texas Manok had overpaid $42,375 (P2.16 million) in royalties for the year 2000 and that AFC was supposed to hold the said amount in trust for Texas Manok. ***Doris C. Dumlao***

SEC urges consolidation of pre-need companies

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has urged the consolidation of pre-need companies in the country for the greater protection of plan holders.

In a briefing with reporters yesterday, SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista said she was hoping that the pre-need industry, which posted a 55-percent increase in sales last year, would continue to expand and that its growth would also benefit less profitable pre-need firms.

"I suggest mergers and acquisitions for those that have been falling behind, those with financial problems," Bautista, who was to speak before a pre-need industry conference last night, said.

She saidthat troubled pre-need firms that the SEC had prohibited from selling plans should also consider outsourcing the servicing of their existing plan holders to other more robust pre-need firms.

Bautista also asked the pre-need federation to consider coming up with some kind of code of ethics in the marketing of pre-need plans. ***Elena R. Torrijos***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, February 4, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	2,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68	67	67.5	67,800
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	100
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	17	17	17	17	4,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	28	28	169,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	212	212	207	208	69,400
Philippine National Bank	74	77	74	75	23,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13.5	13	13.5	8,300
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	10,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.75	17.5	16.75	16.75	473,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.3	335,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	160,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1285	1290	1285	1290	5,090
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	985	1005	985	1005	1,480
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	35.5	36	35	35.5	122,300
Diversified Fin. Network	4	4	4	4	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.56	0.57	10,120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	780	765	780	42,430
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.038	0.038	18,900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	80,000
Piltel	0.49	0.49	0.45	0.46	3,350,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	610,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	530	540	530	530	46,110
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	30,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	23,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27.5	27.5	27	27	28,700
Manila Electric Co. B	41	41	39	39	750,900
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.84	1.86	7,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	120,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	1,878,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	350,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.1	6.3	5.1	6.3	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	50,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	22,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	358,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.25	23.25	165,200
RFM Corp.	2.9	3	2.9	2.95	4,392,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	45.5	45	45.5	59,800
San Miguel Corp. B	60.5	62	60.5	62	178,600
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	61,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	5,240,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	448,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	66,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	110,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2.4	2	2.3	106,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.83	0.84	0.78	0.79	12,320,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.39	0.4	2,160,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.31	1,900,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	650,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.08	1.08	640,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	30	30.5	55,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	1,250,000
Ionics Inc.	9.5	9.6	9.3	9.3	171,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	215,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	400,000
Medco Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	700,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.38	0.38	9,660,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	2,580,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	1,110,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	70,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Bella Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	3,670,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.63	250,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	150,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.62	0.62	3,730,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	36	36	35.5	36	1,262,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	710	710	710	710	380
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	43,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	750	760	750	760	3,100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0016	0.0018	0.0016	0.0016	377,000,000
PNB Warrants	20	20	20	20	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	8,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	21,216,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	140,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	4,430,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.47	3,540,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.33	9,410,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.48	2.48	10,478,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	1,050,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.25	20,000
SM Development Corp.	0.96	0.99	0.95	0.96	1,070,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.8	6.9	5,309,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	17,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.5	2.65	2.4	2.65	267,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.043	0.039	0.039	20,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.035	0.039	0.035	0.039	1,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	1,320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,260,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0046	0.0042	0.0046	421,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	710,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	950,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	3,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.005	0.006	0.006	0.006	40,000,000
Pacifica	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000

CURRENCIES

Feb. 04, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.159555	1.000000	51.3200
Japan	Yen	0.008723	0.007523	0.3861
United Kingdom	Pound	1.644481	1.418200	72.7820
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148852	0.128370	6.5879
Switzerland	Franc	0.676520	0.583431	29.9417
Canada	Dollar	0.729280	0.628931	32.2767
Singapore	Dollar	0.632945	0.545852	28.0131
Australia	Dollar	0.589205	0.508130	26.0772
Bahrain	Dinar	3.075906	2.652661	136.1346
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.309215	0.266667	13.6854
Brunei	Dollar	0.628655	0.542152	27.8232
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026336	0.022712	1.1656
UAE	Dirham	0.315783	0.272331	13.9760
Korea	Won	0.000887	0.000765	0.0393

Exports slumped . . .

From page B1

Articles of apparel and clothing accessories stood a far second among the country's top dollar earners with a combined share of 8.2 percent and a total receipt of $217.63 million, also posting a 17.5-percent drop from a year ago.

Other top export earners were ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships as well as petroleum products, which contributed $36.87 million and $33.22 million, respectively.

Overall, manufactured goods accounted for 89.1 percent of total export revenues but such exports declined by 25.3 percent in December while income from agro-based products, which accounted for 4.4 percent of total receipts, likewise dropped by 30.9 percent.

The United States and Japan remained as the country's top two markets in December, accounting for 26.4 percent and 14.2 percent of total revenues. Netherlands and Taiwan ranked third and fourth with 10.5 percent and 7.1 percent, while other top markets were Singapore, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, Malaysia and Germany.

Analysts said the poor export figures in December and for the whole of 2001 did not come as a surprise. They expressed optimism, however, that there would be significant improvements on Philippine exports this year.

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DOMESTIC DEMAND, STIMULUS

Asia, excluding Japan, to grow 5%–Lehman

Microsoft Corp. chair Bill Gates speaks during a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum being held in New York. Gates says he sees no global economic recovery this year, countering a budding groundswell of optimism tied to economic data pointing to a fast rebound. AP

SINGAPORE—Asia, excluding Japan, should grow 5 percent this year, with South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong posting the strongest recoveries, US investment bank Lehman Brothers said Monday.

Growth in Taiwan and Southeast Asia, in particular Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, should lag because of structural problems and as they grapple with tougher competition from China, it said.

Domestic demand, boosted by fiscal stimulus packages, will likely lead growth in the first half of the year, pending an expected recovery in exports later in the year, it said

"We are expecting a moderate recovery this year, round about 5 percent on top of probably around 3.6-percent growth last year," Paul Sheard, the bank's chief economist for Asia, told a forum here.

"Unlike in 1999 (after the Asian financial crisis), we think the recovery in Asia this year will be driven much more by domestic demand in the initial stages," he said.

A pickup in world demand for Asian exports, rebuilding of inventories and stable oil prices at around $17 a barrel should boost the region's growth prospects.

With inflation seen to be under control, "that means that the policymakers, as we move into recovery, will have plenty of room to keep domestic interest rates lower," he said.

Sheard said, however, that the growth forecast faced "big risks," chief among them was "when things get out of hand in Japan," such as a sustained and rapid depreciation of the yen.

In a separate report, Lehman Brothers said a "catastrophe" in Japan should limit Asia's growth to just 2.9 percent.

But the bank also said that should the global information technology sector snap back, this could propel growth to as high as 6.6 percent.

"Within the region, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore are expected to record the strongest recoveries."

"The rest of Southeast Asia and Taiwan will be slower to recover because of unresolved structural economic problems and the rising competitive threat from China," it said.

China is forecast to grow 6.9 percent this year and 7.1 percent in 2003. South Korea should expand 5 percent and 5.5 percent in 2002 and 2003, respectively, and Hong Kong at 3.7 percent and 4.5 percent.

Singapore, whose economy shrank 2.2 percent last year from a 9.9-percent growth in 2000, is expected to post 3.5-percent growth this year and 6-percent in 2003. *AFP*

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Camp John Hay	300,000	250,000
Canlubang	Pls. Call	500,000
Canyon Woods	250,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	230,000	-
The Country Club	4,500,000	-
Eaglerdge B	400,000	Pls. Call
Eastridge	200,000	-
Filipinas Golf	300,000	-
Fontana C	120,000	-
Fontana D	80,000	-
Forest Hills A	230,000	200,000
Forest Hills C	400,000	-
Manila Golf A	12,000,000	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corp.	13,000,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods A	650,000	Pls. Call
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,400,000
Malarayat	390,000	350,000
Mimosa	190,000	-
Orchard	Pls. Call	200,000
Riviera	250,000	190,000
Sherwood	150,000	-
Sta. Elena	Pls. Call	1,500,000
Subic Golf	310,000	-
Tagaytay CC	370,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	690,000
Tivoli Royale	150,000	-
Valley Golf	230,000	210,000
Wackwack	6,800,000	-

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COUNTRY SHARES
As of February 05, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.45 M/1.5 M	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	265,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	700,000
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Pls. call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000	295,000/325,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	-	13 M
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.55M	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	630,000	650,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND /CORP.*	-	160,000/250,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	600,000**	400/525,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000**	230,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A		125,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	195,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	550,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	150,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	-	1,650,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	-	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	370,000/800*	375,000
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WEF: Trade more important than aid in cutting poverty

NEW YORK—Government ministers summing up discussion at the World Economic Forum said Sunday that there was a consensus that official aid to the Third World must increase, but trade could do more to reduce poverty.

"There is no dispute about the need to tackle poverty—poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere," South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel told a news conference.

He was one of three officials commenting on informal talks among world economic leaders, described by organizers of the five-day annual WEF meeting as "a summit within a summit."

The meeting, which ended Monday, explored the links between poverty and terrorist acts, such as the destruction of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11—the event that prompted the WEF to meet outside the Swiss ski resort of Davos for the first time in 32 years.

Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin said "there was broad agreement that security measures must not become the new protectionism," nor must they undermine civil liberties.

He said ministers also concurred that the worst of the global recession was over, the Doha Round of trade talks must succeed, agricultural subsidies were wrong, and globalization was a good thing but its benefits must be more equitably shared.

Stanley Fischer, a senior adviser to the International Monetary Fund, said, "it was agreed that the short-term outlook for the world economy depends critically on the United States."

The recovery was likely to take longer than the fall into recession that began in the United States in March last year, and economic growth in the short- to medium-term was forecast at between 2 and 2.5 percent, he said.

"No one seemed to be critical of monetary policy, and if anyone had any views about fiscal policy, they kept them to themselves," Fischer said. It was generally agreed that it was now too late for a fiscal stimulus to restore confidence battered by the terrorist attacks, he said.

Fischer said most officials believed there would be no "economic contagion" from the financial crisis in Argentina, but "there was some concern" about political contagion in the form of a backlash against liberal economic policy. *AFP*

Millions die due to IMF, World Bank, US policies–economist

NEW YORK—A prominent Harvard University professor and activist on Sunday accused the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United States of pursuing policies that caused the deaths of millions of people around the world.

"People die by the millions in silence because of poverty" and "this is the responsibility of the IMF and the World Bank," Jeffrey Sachs, who is also head of Harvard's Center for International Development, told a gathering at the World Economic Forum, an annual meeting of corporate and political leaders.

"We have 25,000 people die every day for identifiable reasons."

He charged that the "IMF and the World Bank have failed," citing economic reform programs imposed on poor countries by the two institutions in exchange for financial support.

But he laid much of the blame for their failure on the United States, which he said wielded substantial influence over the IMF and the World Bank and was "the biggest obstacle" to efforts aimed at increasing their assistance to the most impoverished countries.

"We have the means to save millions of people, but we do nothing," said Sachs.

Also attending the session was French parliamentary deputy Dominique Strauss-Khan, who maintained that the United States lagged far behind other industrial countries in the amount of development aid—as a percentage of gross domestic product—that it provided.

France devotes about 0.3 percent of its GDP to aid, compared with 0.1 percent made available by the United States, he said. *AFP*

Japan to promote financial stability in Asia, tackle debts

TOKYO—Japan pledged Monday to help stabilize currencies and financial conditions in Asia, as well as tackling its own national debt, already the highest of the Group of Seven countries.

"Considering the fact that Asian economies are moving toward coordinating policies with each other, Japan will contribute to stabilizing currencies and financial conditions in Asia," Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said in a speech prepared for the new parliamentary session.

"We will propose policy coordination to help stabilize and further develop the world economy at the upcoming meeting of G7 industrial countries," he said.

Finance ministers from the world's seven richest nations will meet in Ottawa on Friday.

However, Japan must also overcome its own financial woes, including expanding debt.

"The combined long-term debt balance of the central and local governments will reach 693 trillion yen ($5.2 trillion) at the end of March 2003. It is the worst of all G7 countries," Shiokawa said.

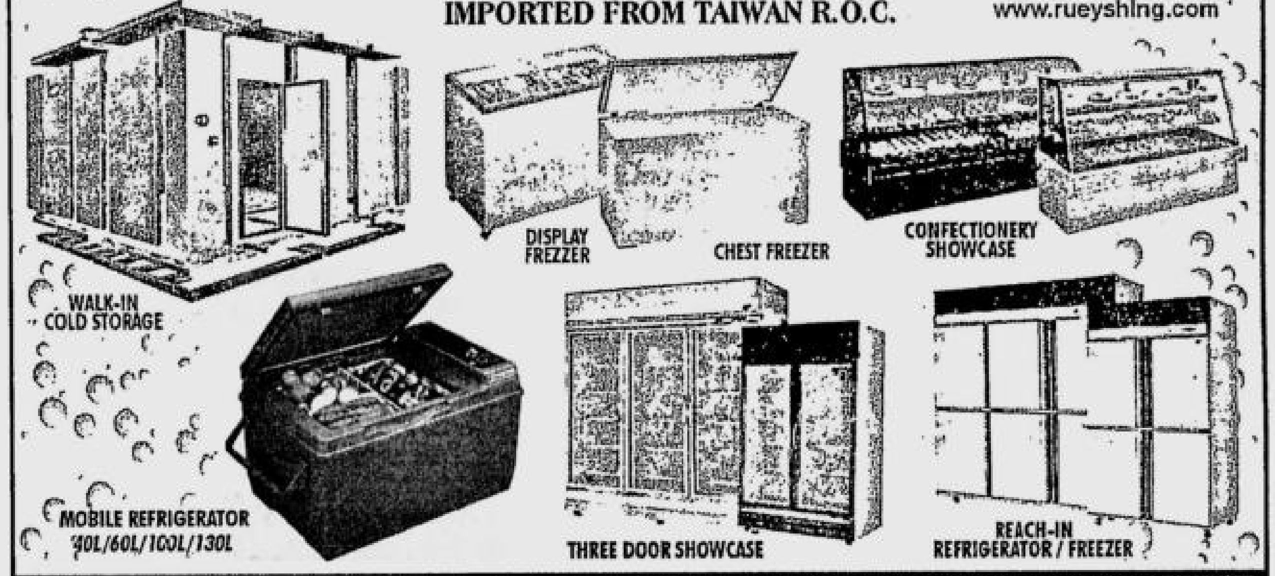
He said the government needed to return to the situation where spending, excluding interest and debt payments, was covered by revenue, excluding bond issues.

Shiokawa stressed the importance of tax reforms, noting that a quarter of individual income earners and two-thirds of Japan's 2.5 million companies did not pay tax.

"We need to rectify this problem of 'hollow taxation' by revising the current system," he said.

"The government will work out the outline for sweeping tax reform by June, through debate in the tax system council and the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy."

Urgent tax reforms would be implemented in the year to March 2004, he said. *AFP*



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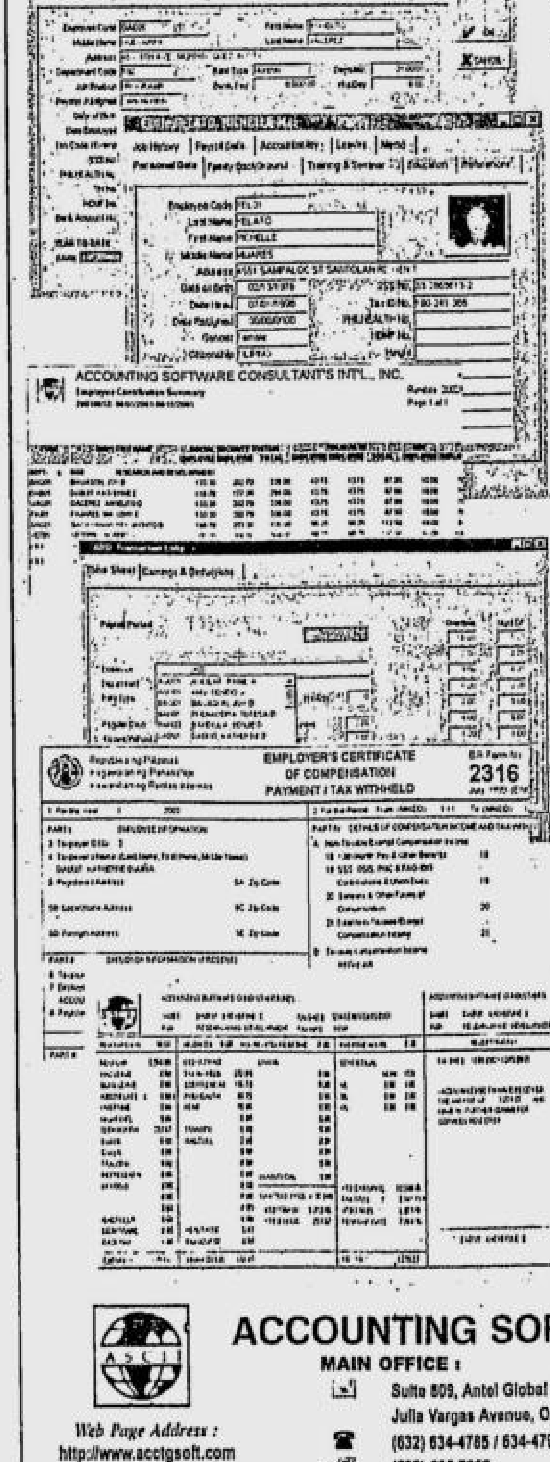

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

EC Harris, Hertford announce merger

EC Harris has today announced that it is merging with Hertford Consulting Group of the Philippines. Established in Asia for 25 years, EC Harris views the Philippine market, under the new administration, as adding unlocked potential growth to its network in the Asia-Pacific region.

Hertford Consulting Group, the development consultant on the proposed SSS Corporate Centre, has been actively progressing a number of significant real estate deals in the Philippines, packaging off-shore funding through institutions such as the Bank of China with international and local consortia.

Paul Chaston, CEO of Hertford and now Partner of EC Harris, said, "By linking our local knowledge and experience with the global network of international funds and development partners, we aim to maximize the potential for real estate projects in the Philippines to be realized."

EC Harris chair Richard Clare added, "We will provide access to the latest project development techniques, benchmarking information and procurement methods, establishing skills within the Philippine market which enable us to reduce the cost of developments with the latest innovative methods."

With access to the resources of EC Harris, which has a turnover of more than £110 million and employs around 2,000 people, this merger supports the Philippine government's policy of securing foreign support to facilitate a return to sustainable economic growth. EC Harris Philippines Inc. has a potential project portfolio of mixed developments in excess of $500 million from the combined entities.

EC Harris is a leading International Capital Project and Facilities Consultancy working closely with clients on construction and facilities commissions worldwide.

JOLLIBEE GOES TO ENCHANTED KINGDOM

Enchanted Kingdom welcomes Jollibee Foods Corp. as it opens its first outlet at the world-class theme park. Inaugurating Jollibee at EK are (from left) EK vice president for marketing and business development Dennis Cruz, Jollibee vice president-regional business unit Lilian Reventar, EK president Mario Mamon and Jollibee operations manager Rose Caalam. Blessing rites were officiated by Fr. Tony Velasco.

GAWAD METRRO LAUDS WG&A

William, Gothong & Aboitiz Philippines (WG&A) was awarded by the Metro Manila Radio Reporters Organization (METRRO) for being a distinguished institution and for its unwavering commitment to effective public service during the Gawad Metrro 2001 awards night onboard the SuperFerry 12 at Pier 4, North Harbor, Manila. Aside from WG&A, notable government officials and media personalities were also given special awards for their outstanding service during the event. Shown (from left) is Metrro president Rod Izon, Senator Rodolfo Biazon and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Benjamin Abalos awarding the plaque to WG&A corporate communications manager Gina Virtusio and WG&A corporate legal officer Bayani Dumaraos.

US Meat Export Federation sponsors Alavera's Burgoo trip to Singapore

IN ITS desire to give customers only the best food and service possible, Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant doesn't stop at what it has and is always on the lookout for advancement and improvement. Burgoo believes that one way of improving is by providing continuous training and seminars to its key people here and abroad.

Burgoo's managing director Albert Alavera leads the training and seminars and always looks for new gimmicks and fresh ideas for the restaurant. This year, he was one of the lucky chefs and restaurateurs chosen by the US Meat Export Federation for a free seminar in Singapore called "US Meat Culinary Workshop". The all-expense paid trip held last November was another momentous event in Alavera's career as a restaurateur. Upon his return to the country, he assured customers of more exciting menus, better service, new ideas and techniques.

Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant is popular for its Oklahoma-Style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Pork Chop, Country-Style Fried Chicken, Lemon-Peppered Grilled Lapu-Lapu, Squid ala Pobre, Supreme Pizza, Seafood Fettucine and Raspberry Cheesecake. Also highly recommended are its Four Great Supreme Choices such as Country-Style Chicken Supreme, Seafood Caesar Supreme, Shrimp Supreme Pizza and Supreme Sampler – all served in huge servings, meant for sharing.

The restaurant opens daily from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day, and also boasts of efficient and friendly service, a fun-loving atmosphere and charming and elegant ambience.

Visit Burgoo at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City, or call 927-7224 and 927-7384. Burgoo is also found at the 3rd Level, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City with telephone numbers 898-1815 to 17.

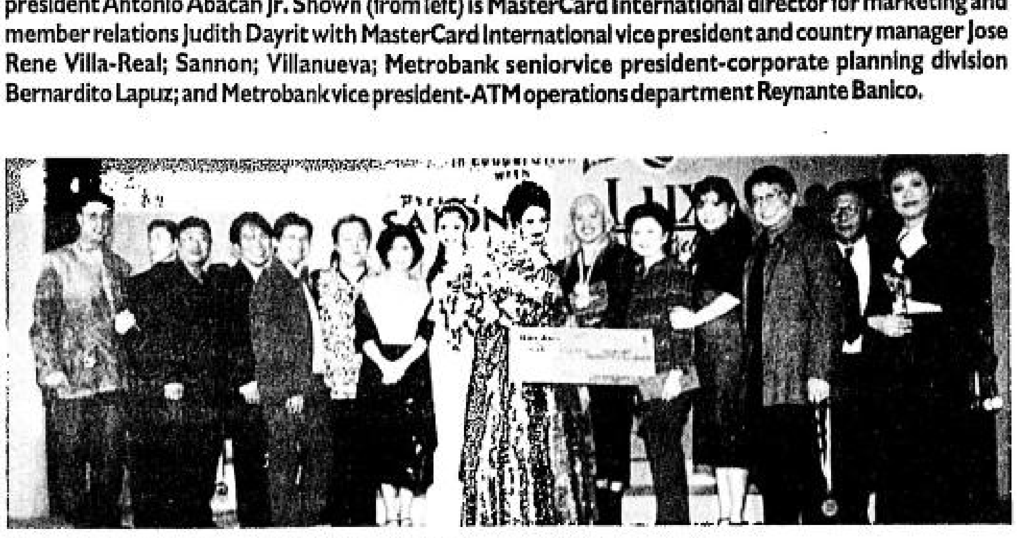
At Burgoo, it's always a family treat.

AFP HOUSING BOARD'S CHRISTMAS

Lt. Col. Vicente M. Yordan, chief of AFP's housing board, poses for posterity with Editha L. Manansala, president of Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. (MRMI), Rita Saguinsin, MRMI's key accounts network manager; and TV host Cheryl Cosim during 'AFP's Christmas in November with Moldex,' an exclusive grand open house at Heritage Homes Trece Martires in Cavite for officers and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Heritage Homes is a house-and-lot project owned and developed by Moldex Land Inc. and marketed exclusively by MRMI.

NEW MASTERCARD CIRRUS/MAESTRO CARD LAUNCHED

Metrobank and MasterCard International have launched Matrobank International E.T. Cirrus/Maestro, a new international card that gives existing Metrobank ATM cardholders access to their funds at over 634,000 Cirrus ATMs and 5.6 million Maestro terminals in 102 countries across the globe. Executives from Metrobank and MasterCard marked the milestone at a recent luncheon in Peninsula Manila Hotel where Sonny Sannon, MasterCard senior vice president, South and Southeast Asia, presented a plaque of appreciation to Metrobank senior executive vice president Angelito Villanueva, who received the plaque on behalf of Metrobank president Antonio Abacan Jr. Shown (from left) is MasterCard International director for marketing and member relations Judith Dayrit with MasterCard International vice president and country manager Jose Rene Villa-Real; Sannon; Villanueva; Metrobank seniorvice president-corporate planning division Bernardito Lapuz; and Metrobank vice president-ATM operations department Reynante Banico.



HAIR WORLD OLYMPICS REPRESENTATIVE

Jun Catab (sixth from right) was the overall champion of Salon Spectacular 2001, and represents the country in the Hair World Olympics 2002 in Las Vegas, Nevada in the United States. Shown with Catab are (from left) James Cooper, Ketni Tam, Jinky Ilusorio, Patrick Rosas, Henri Calayag, John Sunga (1st runner-up in progressive evening hairstyle and make-up); Lorna Tolentino, Ms Lux Super Rich winner Marga Arenas, Jun Catab's model, Evelyn Alvaran-Cruz, Jean Saburit, Jesi Mendez, Victor Quemuel and Pam Chavali (guests from Thailand).

NESTLE LIPA ALAY KAPWA SUPPORTS FEEDING SCHEME

Nestlé Lipa Alay Kapwa recently adopted a community of children aged two to 10 from Barangay Hagimit, Kayumanggi, in Laguna. The undertaking was done in support of the joint outreach program of Lipa City Colleges (LCC) nursing students and the Philippine National Red Cross. The Lipa Alay Kapwa team, headed by committee chair Greg Magundayao, fed the children regularly to improve their physical condition.

Parker pens last a lifetime

FILIPINOS, Reader's Digest Asia 2001 poll reveals, are Parker Pen loyalists. The brand topped the local survey and was awarded the coveted Gold SuperBrand distinction for quality pens in the Philippine market. People across Asia and around the world have remained loyal to Parker, perhaps because through the years, the company has proved loyal to its clients as well. To recognize and retain its loyal customers, all Parker writing instruments are unconditionally guaranteed against failures due to faulty materials or workmanship throughout the life of its original owner. Dependable and reliable, every Parker pen lasts a lifetime, quite literally.

Parker is recognized as a luxury article and perhaps the world's best-selling pen. The vast selection of Parker writing instruments ensures that there is one for every customer's need, whether it be to express self-worth, luxury, status or position. Often described as the world's most favored pen, it is likewise the excellent choice for corporate gifts, recognition awards, sales incentives and marketing media. Businesses trust Parker to deliver their marketing message because the pens can be custom-designed to suit particular promotional requirements. Parker's advanced imprinting technology allows for a faithful and tasteful reproduction of your brand's advertising theme on the pen's exterior: multicolored graphics around the entire surface of the pen, clip and crown emblems imprinted with symbols or logos, and other unique patterns tailored to your own specifications.

While Parker represents constant innovation and modern technology, loyalists are also attracted to the brand's history and traditional values. Parker continues to be the leader within the industry by ensuring that its range of writing instruments retains traditional craft techniques while embodying creative and innovative designs. When George Safford Parker, many decades ago, started making better pens that people will buy, he made sure that those "better pens" became your pen for life.

AII's 5-in-1 watercraft

ATLANTA Industries Inc. (AII), in cooperation with ALS Marine Center and LC Marine Engineering, recently participated in an exhibit "One-Stop Shop" organized by the League of Municipalities of the Philippines on the occasion of its 11th general assembly last November at the Manila Midtown Hotel. AII featured the Atlanta Sealion as the 5-in-1 watercraft. The Atlanta Sealion PVC Watercraft is made of marine-grade PVC pipes and tubes that are durable, flexible and can withstand high-impact stress. It is ideal as a rescue boat, water ambulance, fire boat, auxiliary boat and as a patrol boat. The Atlanta Sealion is only one of the innovative products manufactured by AII.

PC&V COMMUNICATIONS BAGS GOLD

PC&V (Pitargue, Comia & Villaruel) Communications Inc., the leading ad agency in the country, won gold for best point of sale, and bronze for best copy of the 'Someday my prince will.com' in the recently concluded Ad Congress in Cebu. PC&V is one of the directors of SSPI, www.match.ph, the first online compatibility matchmaking site in the country, where people meet. Shown is PC&V president Socky Pitargue with vice president Ariel Comia, Raymond Villaruel, SSPI's managing director, Enrique Gonzales and Mary Ann Go, president.

SWI MISS GREAT BODY

And the winner of Slimmers World Miss Great Bodies 2001 is Jackilou Blanco (partly covered). Blanco also won Miss Nivea Body, Miss Talent (sponsored by Happy Day and Native Tea) and Miss Timex in the same competition held in Shangri-La Hotel, Makati. Presenting the award are Nivea's brand managers for Nivea Firming Lotion Claire Leonio (extreme left) and Melvin Nubla (second from left). Mr. Great Bodies 2001, on the other hand, went to Albert Benato (not shown). Great Bodies 2001 is presented yearly by Slimmers World to promote the beauty and vitality of a healthy lifestyle.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2410-18 P. Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila. Auction Sale on Feb. 11, 2002, Monday at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively, Sept. 11-Oct. 11, 2001.
Sons of J. Lanuza,
Auctioneer

MARA PAWNSHOP
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AUCTION SALE on Feb. 11, 2002, Monday at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, respectively Sept. 11 - Oct. 11, 2001.
Sons of J. Lanuza,
Auctioneer

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave. Baclaran, P'que M.M. Auction Sale on Feb. 11, 2002, Mon. at 4:00 in the afternoon, respectively, Sept. 11-Oct. 11, 2001.
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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED SECOND RURAL BANK OF VILLASIS (Pangasinan), INC. (SRBVI)

1. Starting **February 5, 2002**, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation(PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Second Rural Bank of Villasis (Pangasinan), Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from **February 5, 2002** to **February 21, 2002**, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After February 21, 2002, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, or by mail addressed to -

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Center
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Second Rural Bank of Villasis (Pangasinan), Inc. is on **June 8, 2003**. After **June 8, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

(PDI – Feb. 5 & 6, 2002)
PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COOPERATIVE BANK OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (CBNO)

1. Starting **February 5, 2002**, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation(PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Cooperative Bank of Negros Occidental.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from **February 5, 2002** to **February 28, 2002**, Mondays thru Fridays, during office hours, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After February 28, 2002, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, or by mail addressed to -

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Center
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Cooperative Bank of Negros Occidental is on **May 27, 2003**. After **May 27, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

(PDI – Feb. 5 & 6, 2002)
PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Thank you very much.

PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA
(University of the City of Manila)
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to prequalify and participate in a sealed bidding for the following:

Project:
Rehabilitation of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila - College of Medicine/Ospital ng Maynila Academic Building located at the Ospital ng Maynila.

Contractors with PCAB License Category C and IAC Category Small B (minimum) and have previously undertaken comparable projects may secure pre-qualification documents from the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (OVPAA), after paying the non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00), beginning February 5, 2002.

1. Deadline for submission of accomplished Pre-qualification Form and Documents	February 12, 2002 3:00 p.m., OVPAA
2. Issuance of Notice of Pre-qualification/ Disqualification	February 19, 2002 1:00-4:00 p.m. Administrative Office
3. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 26, 2002 1:00-4:00 p.m. Special Projects Office
4. Pre-Bid Conference/ Site Inspection	March 12, 2002 10:00 a.m., OVPAA
5. Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	March 26, 2002 10:00 a.m., OVPAA

PLM reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA N. SANTOS
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Evaluation, Bidding, and Awards Committee

(PDI – Feb. 5, 2002)

LEPANTO CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY
Lepanto Mine Division
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NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

The Public Hearing scheduled 09 February 2002 for the "Proposed 8000-TPD Gold-Copper Mine" posted by the Proponent last 14 January 2002, in this publication has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances. Further notice will be given when the final date is set for the Public Hearing. The Proponent wishes to express its sincere apology on the matter.

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"I am the Resurrection and the life, whoever believes in
Me though he should die, will come to life"
-- John 11:25

BEATRIZ GOTIANUY LU

Born July 15, 1919, died in the Grace of our Lord
on February 3, 2002.

Beloved wife of the late **Cipriano Lu**; loving mother of **David** and **Marilyn Lu** and **Barbara** and **George Young Jr.**; doting grandmother of **Cipriano II**, **Dwight Oliver**, **Marianne Daisy Lu** and **George Christian Young III**.

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels at Nivel Hills. Daily Mass will be held at 8:00 PM.

Interment will be on Wednesday the 6th of February after the 9:00 AM Mass at Sacred Heart Church, D. Jakosalem Street, Cebu City.

We lovingly remember
our dearly beloved

WILLIAM F. GEMPERLE

(† February 6, 1983)
on his 19th death anniversary.

Holy Mass is being offered on Wednesday, February 6, 2002 at the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish .... 6:15 A.M.,
Magallanes Village, Makati City 7:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park .... 6:00 P.M.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City .... 12:15 P.M.
San Ildefonso Parish, Pio del Pilar, Makati City .... 6:00 A.M.
Sto. Niño de Paz, Greenbelt Chapel, Makati City .... 7:15 A.M.
St. Joseph the Worker, Palanan, Makati City .... 6:00 A.M.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, ... 7:00 A.M.
San Antonio Village, Makati City
St. Joseph Parish (Bamboo Organ), Las Piñas .... 6:00 A.M.
Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, ... 5:30 P.M.
Pope John Paul II Youth Center
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City .... 6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Church, Tambo, Parañaque City .... 6:00 P.M.
St. Andrew Parish, La Huerta, Parañaque City .... 6:00 A.M.
St. Jerome & Sta. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang .... 6:00 A.M.,
12:15 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.
St. James Parish, Ayala Alabang .... 6:20 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, ... 6:45 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
B.F. Homes, Parañaque City
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, Broadway, Quezon City .... 6:00 A.M.,
7:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Mt. Carmel Monastery, Gilmore, Quezon City .... 6:30 A.M.
Parish Church of the Resurrection .... 5:00 A.M.,
BF Homes, Parañaque .... 6:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

The family thanks relatives, friends and readers who pray for his eternal rest.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Message of Thanks

Atty. Rizalino Ragadio Pablo

July 19, 1913 - January 24, 2002

Tatay

We would like to thank each and everyone of you
for the outpouring of love and support that you
gave to us, especially to Nanay.
May you continue to be wonderfully blessed,
as Tatay was by your presence in his life.

ALIW BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Commemorates

The Tenth Death Anniversary of

JULITA "JULIE" GUTIEREZ VIDA

Who died on February 5,1992

Holy Masses will be offered today February 5, 2002 on the following churches:

Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, West Triangle, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Sta. Rita Parish, Philamhomes, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Sto. Domingo Parish, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	12:15 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kanlaon Street, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Parish, Roxas District, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Shrine of St. Anthony, Bustillos, Sampaloc, Manila	7:30 a.m.
Indang Catholic Church, Indang, Cavite	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Baguio City	7:00 a.m.
St. Dominic Church, San Carlos City, Pangasinan	7:00 a.m.

Her family requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
- ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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On the Thirty-Sixth Death Anniversary of

NARCISA B. DE LEON

we lovingly remember and once more offer HOLY MASSES tomorrow, Wednesday, February 6, 2002, at 8:30 AM at the family residence at 35 Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City, and at the following churches:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Forbes Park, Makati	6:15 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, Greenhills, Mandaluyong	6:15 AM
CHRIST THE KING, E. Rodriguez, Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City	6:30 AM
ST. JOHN BOSCO, Arnaiz Street, Makati	6:30 AM
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Pinaglabanan Street, San Juan	6:30 AM
SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City	6:30 AM
OUR LADY OF EDSA, EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City	6:30 AM
MARY THE QUEEN, Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan	7:00 AM
OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Retiro corner Kanlaon, Quezon City	7:30 AM
MT. CARMEL, Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City	6:00 PM
MINOR BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE, St. John The Baptist Parish, Quiapo, Manila	6:00 PM

We, her family, request relatives, friends and the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16

AMANDO GARCIA REYES, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 4, 2002
at the age of 71.

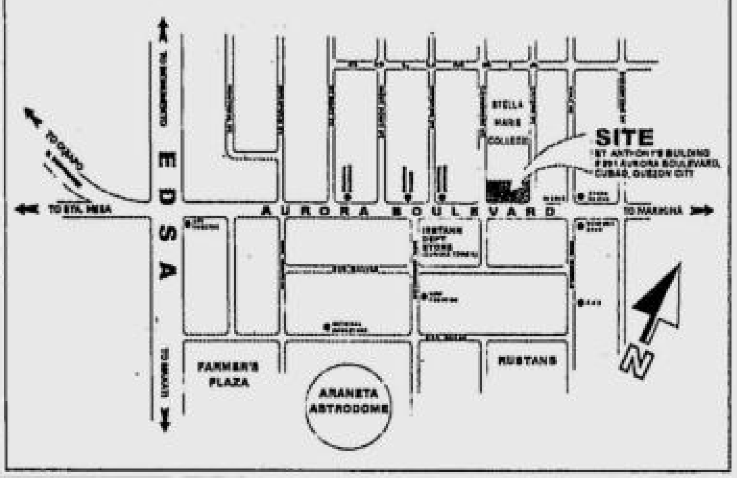
His bereaved wife **Amelia Santana Reyes**; children **Meluchi, Dodo, Albert, Jojo, Allan, Andy, Noli** and **Annette** (†); sons and daughters-in-law **Mario Rocha, Vicky Manuel, Ellyn Domingo, Bing Crisologo, Vicky Lopez, Helen Aquino** and **Anna Villaluna**; brothers **Teofilo Jr.** (†) and **Rafael** (†); sisters **Pacita R. Dar Santos, Leonila R. Tiongson** (†), **Anita R. Carpo** and **Ester G. Reyes**; grandchildren **Marion** and **Miggy, Mark** and **Martin, Andrea, Adrian** and **Alexander, Bianca, Brian** and **Bea, Aina, Anton, Alphonso** and **Yanni, Stefan** and **Enrique**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends humbly request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on a date to be announced later.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



CLASSIFIEDS

SMART SUPPORTS BANTAY BATA 163

Smart Communications Inc. beefed up its support to the cause of less privileged Filipino children by donating cellular phones to ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata Foundation. The units will be used by the foundation's social workers and medical teams to respond to emergencies as well as to coordinate the activities of the group. Last year, Smart tapped its more than 80 wireless centers nationwide to act as conduits of Bantay Bata's coin banks. Since then, Smart subscribers have been encouraged to donate, as evidenced by the filled-up coin banks which Smart has been turning over to Bantay Bata's fund-raising campaign. Shown is Bantay Bata Foundation chair Tina Monzon Palma receiving the cell phone donations from Smart's public affairs head Ramon R. Isberto. Witnessing the turnover are Julia Florecio, Bantay Bata's children's home manager; Jo Clemente, Smart's senior officer for public affairs and Irene Serrano, regional manager for customer care, also of Smart.

World-class Italian jewelry store opens in Peninsula Hotel

FILIPINO jewelry lovers will now have the opportunity to shop for world-class jewelry in Ilios Jewellers Inc., an Italian jewelry company which is the jeweler to Queen Beatrice of Sweden and other royal families in the region, in its newly opened retail shop at the Peninsula Hotel Manila.

Ilios Jewellers is owned by Giuseppe Troisi, an Italian, together with his wife Doreen Troisi. The company turns out a dazzling and wide collection of jewelry handcrafted by the skilled hands of Filipino goldsmiths under the watchful and discriminating eyes of Giuseppe and his team of European quality control supervisors. Offering fresh and innovative designs inspired by nature and science, Ilios boasts of a spectacular array of brooches in springtime designs and colors. Among them are flower designs including an orchid and tulip brooches glittered with diamonds in champagne color on black and white gold. Its butterfly brooches are covered with tiny colored diamonds and semi-precious rainbow colored stones of yellow and pink sapphire. The collection also includes fruit designs of pineapple and pomelo.

Ilios has hundreds of jewelry in its high-end collection which include rings, earrings, pendants, necklaces, rings, brooches and bracelets fabricated with the high standards of a very discerning European market.

According to Giuseppe, the fashion trends in Europe lean towards the use of fine jewelry as an indispensable fashion accessory to enhance one's total look.

These make Ilios' pieces all the more objects of art that the eyes can feast on. Not only that, because of the priceless value of fine jewelry, customers are guaranteed that they have in their possession pieces of solid and enduring investments that know no time and place.

Ilios exports its jewelry to the United States, Italy, France, Sweden, South America, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Because of its export market, the company uses the latest and best technology available to support the craftsmanship skills of its Filipino jewelry workers. Guiseppe intimates that they also make jewelry tailor-made to the customer's specifications and designs.

Filipinos do not have to go to Europe or other countries to acquire world-class jewelry. The Philippines is now the manufacturing site of European jewelry, now available right in the Makati area at the Mezzanine of the Peninsula Hotel Manila.

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Constructive distinction

Q. What's the difference between *cement* and *concrete?*

A. In general, *cement* is any chemical binding agent that makes things stick to it or to each other, e.g., glue, paste, and Portland cement. In the construction industry, *cement* specifically refers to an adhesive consisting of clay and rock materials that form a paste when mixed with water. *Concrete* is a construction material made up of such items as gravel, sand, slag, and pebbles held together by cement. That is, *cement* is the binding element in *concrete.*

Ooops! Portland cement is not made in Portland, Oregon, or in Portland, Maine, or, for that matter, in any city named Portland. In fact, the Portland part has no connection whatsoever with cement at all. The term derives from the Isle of Portland in England, and yet cement was never made there either. Portland cement was invented in 1824 by a stonemason named Joseph Aspdin, of Leeds, England. He called his product Portland cement because it resembled Portland stone, limestone quarried on the Isle of Portland. For the technically minded, Portland cement is a hydraulic cement made by heating a mixture of limestone and clay (containing oxides of calcium, aluminum, iron, and silicon) in a kiln and pulverizing the resultant clinker.

Past Forward. This day in 1922: A new monthly magazine was launched in New York City with an appealing formula - the *Reader's Digest* offered 31 condensed articles from leading magazines, each one 'of enduring value and interest.' It was the brainchild of DeWitt Wallace, a former book salesman, who finally published the magazine himself on a shoestring budget after he was unable to find backers for his idea in his native Minnesota.

WORD WATCH

Pahina : from the Spanish *pagina*, 'page.'

PDI – February 5, 2002

Sweet Nothings

This Valentine season, let the world know how much that special someone means to you by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On February 14, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS** will publish personal ads dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart at a discounted rate of **P50** per line or **P180** per column centimeter.

For more information, visit or call any **INQUIRER** branch. Prices are VAT exclusive.

SAMPLE ADS

Iane,
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I LOVE YOU!
always,
Red

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P720 VAT exclusive

Happy Heart's Day Lizl You're God's greatest blessing – Tim

size: 3 lines
cost: P150 VAT exclusive

I love you Regin! Loving you is one of the best things I've ever done in my life. Happy Valentine's Day! – Mikaela

size: 4 lines
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REAL ESTATE

Cesar D. Mangawang, Editor

RENT-TO-OWN HOMES

Ideal 'entry point' for young families

By Tessa R. Salazar

RENT a home now, then decide within five years if you want to own it.

If you are a "homeless" professional still living with parents but are looking for a worthwhile investment, or if you're starting a family but you only have a gross monthly income of P4,000, the Home Development Mutual Fund says you can avail of its Rent-to-Own Program.

Open to Pag-Ibig and non-Pag-Ibig members, the Rent-to-Own Program has over 1,300 housing units available as of December 2001. The available units are part of a moving inventory because of the additional acquired properties of the government.

A first-come, first-served basis program, the units cost as low as P150,000, or as high as above P500,000 and could be found in Makati City, Quezon City, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Rizal, Pampanga and Davao City.

A SOCIALIZED rent-to-own housing unit at Mabuhay City, Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The available properties, however, are based on the appraised value. The cost of a particular property or the basis of the appraised value depends on the location, the size of the lot, the floor area and the materials used in the unit.

A typical socialized housing unit offered costs P180,000 and more. The economic housing unit could range from P300,000 to P500,000.

A 'crowning glory'

The "graduation" from being a house renter to being an owner is considered the lessee's crowning glory in the RTO program.

Said RTO program marketing head Abed A. Origenes: "The moment he or she decides to upgrade the property for ownership, the title or the proof of ownership will be given and the owner-to-be starts paying. The monthly payment for the housing loan will then be called amortization. Goodbye to monthly rental payments."

Another good news to the new owners is they would no longer pay BIR the value-added tax, he added.

Origines, however, added that the new owner should expect an add-on expense as a new owner. The basis of the owner's monthly amortization would be the loan to be availed.

Motivation

Origenes said a proof of ownership is a motivation for the new owner to pay religiously his or her monthly obligation. He added that home renovation could be the next most exciting plan the new owner with a budget would have.

New owners who renovate their homes and add personal touches on them and make them as goodlooking as possible are more often the ones who take their monthly obligations on housing loans seriously. These new owners learn to value and care for their home more.

"We encourage them to make their homes look good," Origenes stressed. "It motivates them not to forget their monthly obligation."

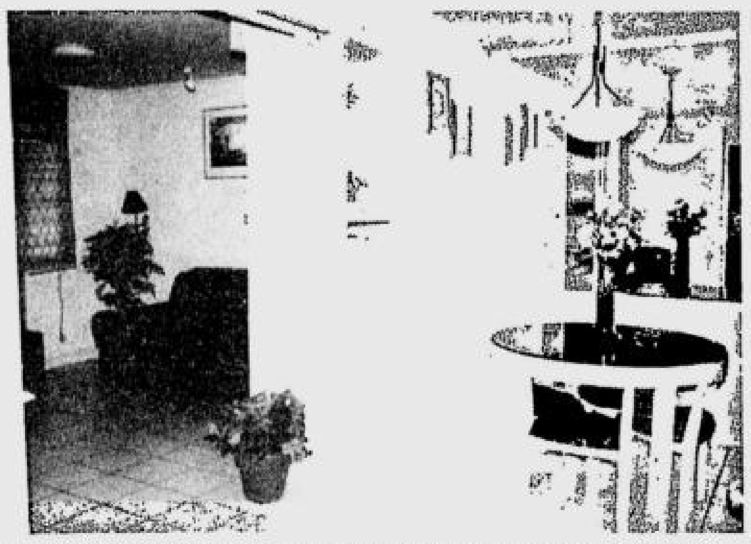
The RTO program works better because the equity that burdens potential homeowners is no longer there, said Origenes. He added that the government sells the properties at the appraised value, but because a potential homeowner under the RTO program is not obliged to purchase it outright but has the option to rent it first, he or she doesn't see the cost as a burden.

Housing loans up

The more expensive properties under the RTO program are the condominium units at the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the condominium units at the Smile City Homes in Novaliches. These units cost as much as P500,000. Origines said Pag-Ibig's housing loan for its members used to be limited to P500,000 but it had been recently upgraded to up to P2 million.

The rent-to-own program is a nationwide program centered on, but not limited to, the National Capital Region. Many units are located in the NCR.

It is a product of the Task Force Asset Recovery spearheaded by Raul C. Rimando to help Pag-Ibig Fund sort out its delinquent borrowers. There are over 150,000 housing unit owners nationwide who haven't paid their obligations, said Origenes.



AN INTERIOR of a rent-to-own condominium unit in Smile Citihomes condominium, Zabarte Road, Novaliches Quezon City

The delinquent borrowers' units are classified as with occupants or without occupants. Occupants could still be the original borrowers. They could also be renters or buyers of rights. Or they could be illegal occupants or squatters.

Owning a house hard to meet for belt-tightening poor

HOW much is one's income/salary when he or she is in the poverty line? How much should the individual spend to stay alive and live decently? How much can he save to buy a decent house?

If you earn just P4,000 a month, it could be an uphill climb—if you ask Home Development Mutual Fund's Rent-to-Own marketing head Abed Origenes. He said that a family gross income of P4,000 meeting the RTO program criteria could be a big question mark.

The RTO program has indicated its minimum rental fee of P1,000. "Out of the P4,000 gross income, how much would your net or take home pay be? How much would be your other deductions?" he asked.

"If P1,000 would be your rental payment, is P3,000 (remaining from the gross income) enough for your monthly expenses?"

Origines, however, added that Filipinos' resilience could make them achieve the impossible. This includes owning a home at a very tight budget.

"So if you think you can avail of the rent-to-own program with just P4,000 gross family income, ask yourself first if you can make it on a long-term basis," said Origenes. For young professionals who are in the comfort of their parents' homes, however, here's the RTO program's message: If you want to invest, do it now, not later. ***Tessa R. Salazar***

Now Open
Robinsons Choice

NOW OPEN AT EASTWOOD CITY

The Gokongwei-owned Robinsons Supermarket has opened its first Choice outlet at the ground floor of Olympic Heights, a three-tower luxury condominium development in Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Robinsons Choice brings to residents of Eastwood City and nearby villages and the office workers at the Eastwood City CyberPark the convenience of a neighborhood supermarket.

Federal Hardware to build more stores

FEDERAL Hardware Builder's Center continues to expand its operations after the success of its flagship store on Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) in Makati City.

The only American-style one-stop hardware supermarket in the country, Federal Hardware plans to put up at least seven more branches this year with one branch opening every month starting with the opening of the Taytay store on Jan. 21. Other Federal Hardware outlets will open in Bacoor, Cainta, Angeles, Imus, Las Piñas and Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Federal Hardware presidént Jeffrey Ng said the company plans to open 30 stores all over the country in the next three years.

"The company is very definite about the success of future stores because the market acceptance of our flagship store has been better than we expected," Ng added.

The success of Federal Hardware has been attributed to a number of factors. These include an extensive selection of products; competitive prices and further discounts for contractors; prominent stock displays which allow shoppers to see and touch the merchandise before buying; visual merchandising and in-store display promos and other conveniences like free parking and a coffee shop.

Vivant Flats model units open for viewing

LIVING in a condominium unit is now widely accepted as an alternative home for young couples, families and people who simply prefer to live near their workplaces and commercial centers.

After selecting a preferred location, designing the unit is another major concern. You are faced with the daunting task of creating your dream home within the given amount of space in their unit.

Filinvest presents some design options using the model units of Vivant Flats, Filinvest Corporate City's newest residential project.

For Vivant Flats, Filinvest presents interior design possibilities for the condo's studio, one- bedroom and two-bedroom units. Combining modern convenience and cosmopolitan character, the units introduce a refreshing approach to interior arrangements with minimal space requirements. Tastefully designed, with complete appliances and furnishings, Vivant Flat's model units make condominium living an enticing option. A 22-story residential tower within Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Vivant Flats offers luxurious condominium living for people who put a premium on value.

THIS model unit of Vivant Flats reflects creative interior design ideas for your condo.

What's more, at Vivant Flats you acquire not just a home but the lifestyle you aspire for. Located in a prime location within Alabang's premier satellite city, the best things in life are within reach. Right across is the Southpoint Driving Range while down the street is the Festival Supermall, the biggest shopping center in the south. One block away is the Asian Hospital and within a few blocks are Northgate CyberZone's technology companies and an IT school. With progress moving southward, you'll be right where the action is, at the heart of the country's new center of business and leisure.

Feel a sense of pride as you come home to the elegant 22-story structure designed by Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo, world-renowned architects for the hospitality, leisure, entertainment and residential industries. The well-appointed units of Vivant Flats will feature expansive glass doors and windows to take advantage of the views of the cityscape and landscaped gardens.

For quality time at home, the compound also incorporates recreational amenities such as a swimming pool, children's pool and playground, jogging path with fitness station, function room, open areas for social functions and landscaped gardens. Complemented by modern building facilities, five parking levels and 24-hour security, Vivant Flats features the best of high-rise convenience.

Another unique feature of Vivant Flats is its affordability. With a new concept called "Shared Development," you can acquire your unit at exactly the cost to build it. Risk-free from start to finish, and with flexible payment terms, it puts your dream condo within reach.

Located at the third level of Festival Supermall (near Festival Bingo, fronting Subway), the model units of Vivant Flats are open for viewing daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For inquiries, interested parties may call 809-6517 to 22 or e-mail sales@filinvestcorpcity.com.

Earth + Style launches new product offerings

LEADING lifestyle property developer Earth+Style Corp. recently paid tribute to its brokers and sales agents in a lavish recognition ceremony and sales rally at the Grand Ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

The event, dubbed as "The Strongest Link 2002" honored the company's top sellers. It also served as a venue for launching new product offerings and sales promotion.

Launched were the Earth+ Style Prestige Awards 2002 to recognize the company's performers and winners, the Asset Security Advantage Buyers' Promo wherein huge discounts and special packages are offered to customers and the Strongest Link 2002 Sellers' Incentives Promo wherein luxury vehicles like BMW sedans and Ford Expeditions will be given away to top performers. And to further boost and support the company's active sales force, the management will also give cash incentives of as much as P1 million and exciting trips abroad.

The launch of Earth+Style Homes was marked by an audio-video presentation featuring the company's various projects such as Park Villas (American theme), Casa del Sol (Mediterranean theme), Villa Villagio (Italian theme) and Amanzaya (Asian theme).

Committed to enhancing the Filipino's quality of life, Earth+ Style has developed several residential projects in the Cavite-Laguna area. These include Parkplace Village, Grand Parkplace Village, Pacific Parkplace, Villaggio Ignatius and Jubilation.

Creba supports Alvarez's DENR appointment

THE CONFIRMATION of the appointment of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez could bolster the government's efforts in pursuing its national shelter program, according to Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Associations (Creba).

Creba is the umbrella organization of real estate and construction entities partnering with the government in providing home ownership to millions of Filipinos.

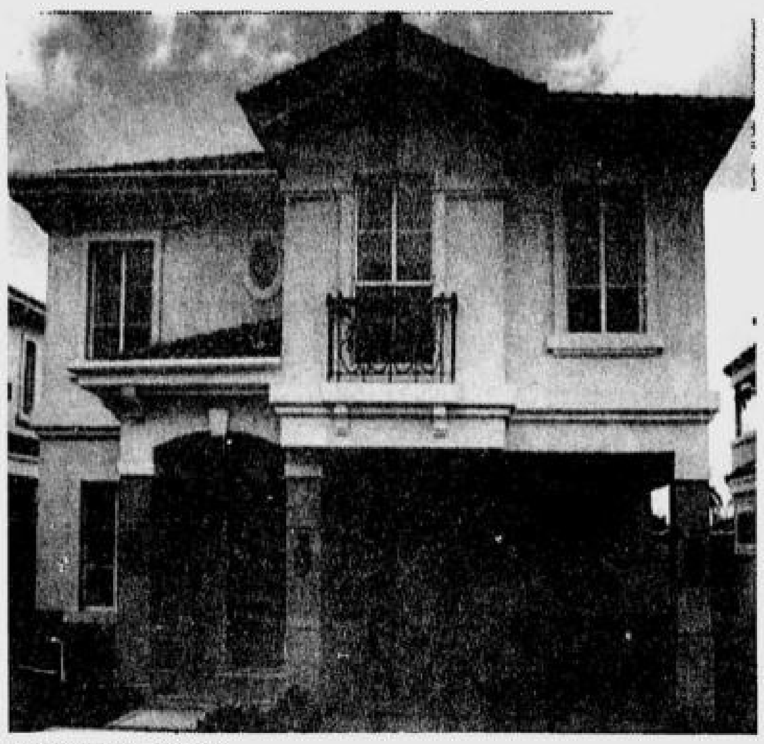
"We are convinced that the government can benefit from Secretary Alvarez's experience, perspective and convictions on public service, particularly in saving the earth from destruction and providing Filipinos with healthy habitats," said Florentino Dulalia, Creba national president.

Creba's support for Secretary Alvarez came in the wake of so-called "intense lobbying" by certain groups and individuals for the DENR post which has stalled the confirmation of his appointment.

"In this era of turbulence, we need a government official like Secretary Heherson Alvarez who is equipped with an abundant supply of understanding, missionary zeal, broadmindedness and capability to stay at tough tasks despite the odds," Dulalia said.

New lifestyle for Brentville residents

Mediterranean-inspired architecture is evident in the details of Classiques homes



ALEXANDRIA model

By Charles E. Buban

NEW residents moving south of Metro Manila are attracted by its variation of first-class subdivisions and master-planned communities. Whatever the type, style, size or price of the home being sought, there is surely one for their taste. Recently, Filinvest Land Inc. opened up new models of homes inside Brentville International that offers the best executive and luxury homes to be found in the area.

Mediterranean-inspired architecture is evident in the details of Classiques homes. With clay-tiled roofs, decorative tiling, moldings, intricate grillwork, handsomely accented windows, arches and rich earth-tone colors, the Classiques homes capture the warmth of Southern California, casting a timeless spell as only a classic can do.

Reflecting the Classiques homes' stylish spirit is the meticulous attention to detail. This ranges from dramatic entryways, expansive formal living and dining areas with vaulted ceilings that make a most impressive statement, to large family rooms and breakfast nooks for casual gatherings and oversized kitchens and family gourmet would truly appreciate, along with luxurious master suites that would satisfy even the most discriminating taste.

Three models

The Classiques, the fast-selling homes inside Brentville International, has three expansive plans to fit every lifestyle. Finishes are customized to suit the personal tastes and preferences of the owner:

Kassandra homes are formal and dramatic. The largest among the three types with a total of 389-square-meter-floor space on a 700 sq.-m lot, the Kassandra homes offer a large traditional foyer that leads to a finely detailed staircase, complemented by a wide expanse of windows, creating a strikingly well-lit passage.

The spacious, well-thought-out kitchen is designed for casual family living. Upper cabinets are kept to a minimum to take full advantage of the views, while a large counter of polished granite situated at the center of the room allows convenient surfaces for cooking, serving buffet meals, eating and doing homework.

Says Kassandra homes' design consultant Arlen de Guzman: "A Kassandra home is spacious yet flexible. Its floor plan is perfectly suited for entertaining and casual daily living. Cathedral high ceilings handsomely accented by tall windows cast bright slivers of light into elegant living and dining areas."

Balconies and bridgeway

Larissa homes' tall windows scattered throughout bring splashes of sunlight deep into the house. High above the living room are balconies jutting out of the study and family area with a centerpiece bridgeway linking the family room to the master bedroom.

Larissa's 340 sq.-m-floor plan is enclosed by lush gardens that spill out from all corners of the 461 sq.-m lot. "This creates continuous views throughout. The front and the dining room each have three different views, with the garden wrapped around each vista, creating a pavilion effect. At the center of the house is the living room with an 18-feet high ceiling, situated with a direct view of the central garden," describes its interior designer Tina Periquet.

Alexandra homes on the other hand, employ classic style complemented by a contemporary floor plan. This model is noted for its functional open plan. With an emphasis on height and a feeling of openness, the plan's concept is evident in its vaunted ceilings and broad expanses of windows that dominate the Alexandria design.

"The Alexandria's 308 floor plan flows gracefully from the den and family room to the breakfast area and kitchen, creating a comfortable living space. The design is perfect for entertaining and daily family gatherings since people can freely wander between the den and kitchen. Even the host or the chef can join the gathering since the kitchen allows a good view of the adjacent area of the house," says Eric Figueroa, Filinvest planning engineer and senior architect.

Innovative design

Brentville International homes were specifically designed to enhance quality of life. Each exclusive enclave of Prominence, West Parc, The Meridien, Woodmore Spring and Sunshine Place has its own entrance gate and community cabana with generous open spaces, and immaculately manicured grounds.

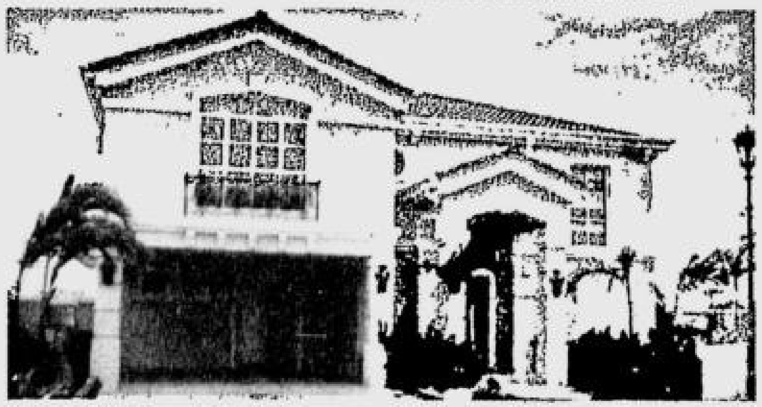
"This is truly an innovative community design—lot divisions are uniformly done to avoid disjointed appearance of the neighborhood while modern utilities have been carefully laid to allow unobstructed views of streetscapes, the nearby mountain scape and rice fields," says Gigi Salazar, a business development and marketing senior manager for Brentville International.

What makes Brentville International truly remarkable is its proximity to Brent International School, where the community derived its name. In fact, through a special program, Brent School will allow residents to use the school's facilities like track and field, tennis courts, pool areas and even the library. With this unique program encouraging community activities, Brentville is an ideal neighborhood where people not only live, but learn and play as well.

Brentville is located just 200 meters from Mamplasan exit (between Carmona and Sta. Rosa Interchange) along South Luzon Expressway, and just minutes away from Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang as well as other major business, commercial, industrial and recreational hubs of Metro Manila.

MASTER toilet and bath, Kassandra model

FAMILY room, Larissa model



KASSANDRA model

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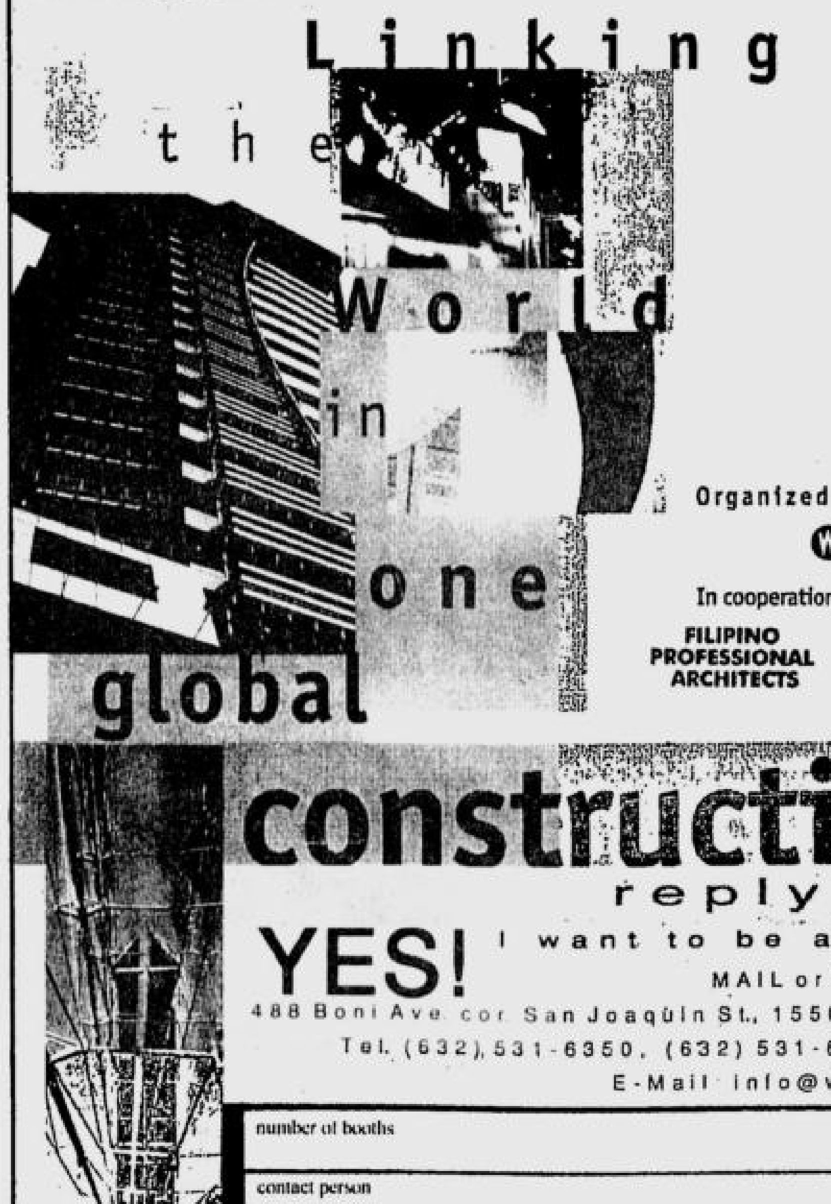

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BUSINESS

Group urges gov't to firm up policy on tariff coverage

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMEN want the Macapagal administration to finally lay down its tariff policy on petrochemicals and steel and decide whether it would support downstream or upstream industries in these sectors.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said the government must decide now whether it would continue coddling upstream industries with tariff protection at the expense of downstream industries. Or whether it would finally discontinue its protection of upstream industries while allowing downstream industries to compete against foreign imports.

Concepcion said the FPI would lead a group of businessmen to discuss with the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters the government's tariff policy on plastics and steel.

Concepcion said the government must inevitably choose between the upstream and downstream industries in its tariff policy because there was no middle ground in the issue. "Either she believes that the Philippines must have its basic steel and plastic industries here or the downstream industry can compete even if most of its inputs would come from abroad," Concepcion said.

Concepcion said there was no rush to reopen NSC or build a naphtha cracker in the country because of the global glut in steel and resins. Concepcion's family runs the biggest white-line appliance maker in the country, which is likely to be affected by a government's decision to maintain high tariffs on steel and resins.

Upstream industries are basic manufacturing companies that produce the inputs used by downstream industries to make finished goods. The upstream industry is represented by steel makers like National Steel Corp. for steel and petrochemical companies for plastics, while the downstream industries cover a broad group of industries that use steel and plastic as direct inputs for their products or packaging materials. The downstream industry does not only include the makers of plastic chairs or steel bars but also the automotive and appliance manufacturing companies.

Concepcion said the downstream industry was worried that the government would again favor the development of basic industries by extending the tariff protection on steel and petrochemicals to attract new investors in the reopening of NSC and the development of an $800-million naphtha cracker.

Concepcion said that while there was a need to build basic industries in the country, the government should not use tariffs to protect the steel and petrochemical industry because this would hurt the downstream industry. "Instead of tariffs that will hurt a lot of industries, the government should use other fiscal incentives to support the steel and petrochemical firms. This way the government support will be more focused and it will spare other industries," Concepcion said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (center) views the website philippinebusiness.com.ph which was launched during the 20th anniversary celebration of the Makati Business Club (MBC) at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. In her speech, Macapagal asked for the help of MBC in improving the public education system by providing computer training courses and building schools in at least 1,600 barangays. Standing behind the President are MBC officials (from left) Cecille Cortez, staff; Luis Lorenzo, trustee; Ricardo Romulo, chair; Corazon dela Paz, treasurer; Ramon del Rosario Jr., vice-chair; Roberto de Ocampo, trustee; and Cesar Buenaventura, trustee.

T-bill rates stabilize; 91-day rate at 7.501%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday rejected offers for the 91-day treasury bills to prevent the benchmark borrowing rate from going up slightly even as fixed income traders cautioned that rates were nearing their bottom and should go up soon.

Treasury bill yields still managed to post a slight decline for the fifth straight week yesterday as the 91-day instrument slid by only 0.1 basis point to 7.501 percent, while the six-month debt notes went down by 5.7 basis points to 7.955 percent.

The government had raised only P2.375 billion yesterday even as tenders of P5.66 billion exceeded the P3 billion worth of borrowing notes issued. The Treasury had canceled the auction of one-year treasury notes until March.

Of the P1.6 billion worth of 91-day treasuries tendered, the government only accepted P875 million but gave a full P1.5-billion award for the 182-day notes.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the auction committee decided to reject some of the bids for the 91-day instrument since the government had P50 billion in free cash as of yesterday and could afford to turn down offers.

He said he believed that treasury bill rates have not yet bottomed out even as he admitted that a possible cut in the central bank's policy rates next week had been discounted by the market, and the US Federal Reserve move not to cut rates last week disappointed the local fixed income market.

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LIFESTYLE

Chelo Banal-Formoso, Editor

Fitness

Gina de V's victory tastes mighty sweet

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Johnny Villena

Gina de Venecia's awakening took place in mid-1998 soon after husband, House Speaker Jose de Venecia, lost in that year's presidential elections.

"After the elections people were saying *kawawa naman si* Gina and I really didn't want people to pity me, "she relates one afternoon in the peach-colored receiving room of her Dasmariñas home.

"I decided back then, once and for all, that I was going to lose weight and get fit as a fiddle," she adds, looking fresh and trim in a lime-green body-hugging top over black slacks. "You've got to put your mind to it and commit yourself to a diet and exercise program in order for it to work," de Venecia stresses.

An hour in the a.m., an hour in the p.m.

Nowadays, Gina "looks good and feels good"—a mantra she repeats throughout the interview that afternoon. "When you look good, everything else follows," she says with much conviction and a glow that comes from having won the long and hard battle of the bulge.

The journey toward fitness was not, well, a walk in the park. De Venecia relates how she went on a six-week cabbage soup diet and worked the treadmill for two hours a day.

"An hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon seven days a week," she explains her fitness regimen. After the six-week period she had lost some 15 pounds and then shifted to this self-programmed diet: For breakfast, she would have a *pan de sal*, fruits and coffee with Equal and cream; for lunch, it would be fish with vegetables, one-fourth cup of rice and fruits; dinner would be composed of skinless chicken (broiled, grilled or baked) and fruits again.

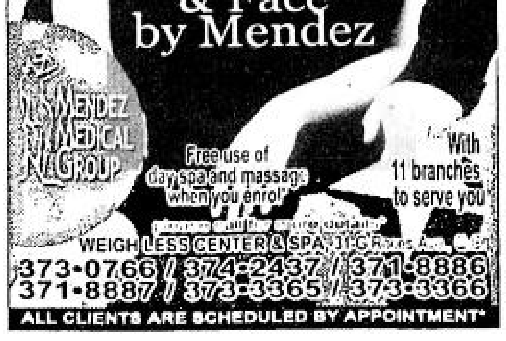
She would alternate this diet with the popular Scarsdale and Atkins programs. Throughout an initial three-month period she continued with her workout on the treadmill. The end result after this three-month period? An astonishing and terribly flattering loss of 30-pounds!

Over three years later, Gina has managed to keep the extra weight off though admittedly, she will be the first to say that losing it is easier than maintaining it. "After losing all that weight, I really felt like a million dollars, "she says laughing, "My children even say I now look like their *ate* and no longer the matronly mom they knew."

The Speaker's wife does impress in person. She looks fabulous, 10 years younger and much more

GINA/ p.C3

Instead of wallowing in fat and self-pity when her husband lost in the last presidential elections, she chose to hit the treadmill and follow a diet consisting mostly of fruits



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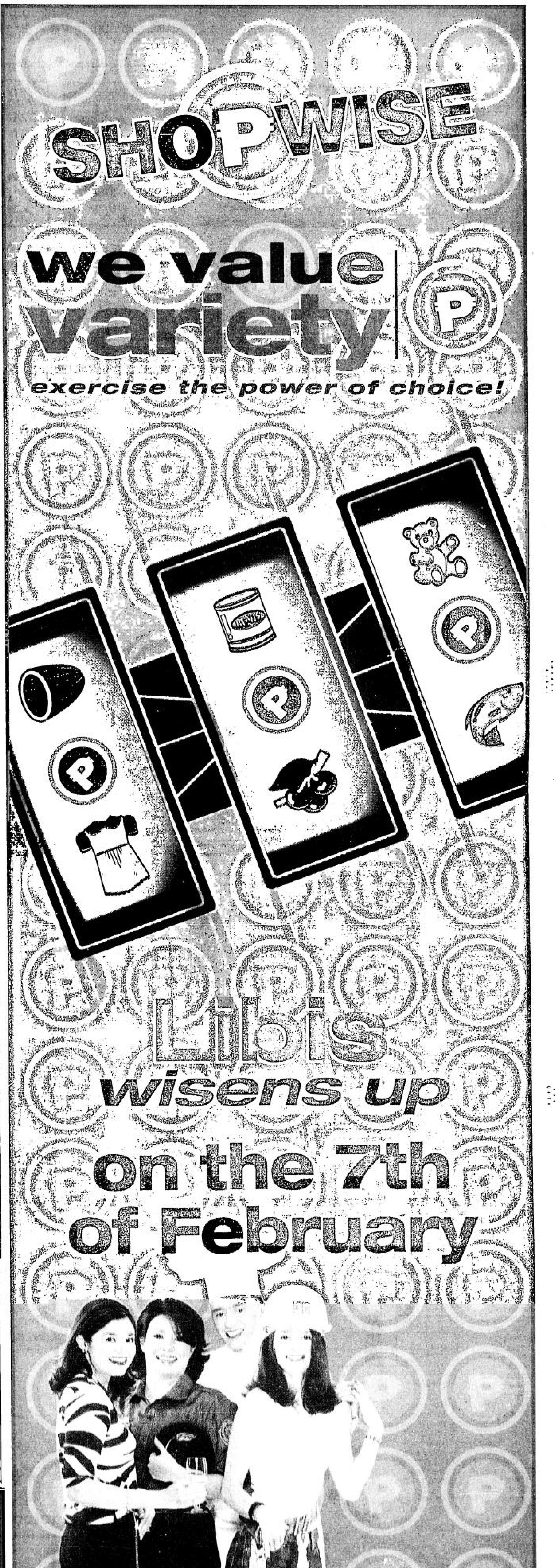

SHOPWISE

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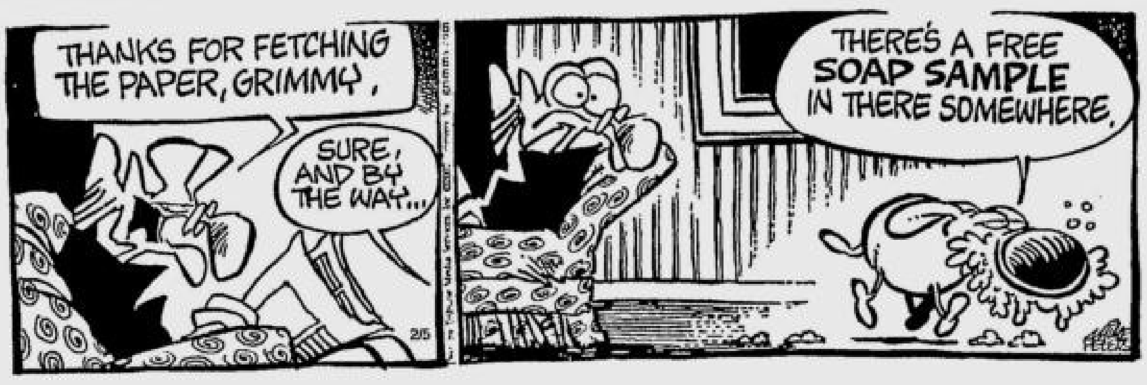
Libis wisens up on the 7th of February

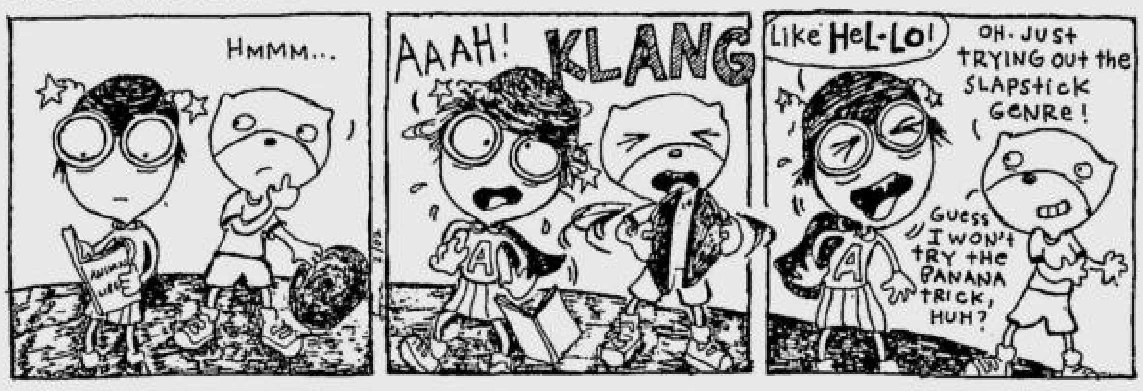
SHOPWISE

LIBIS is at 150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City

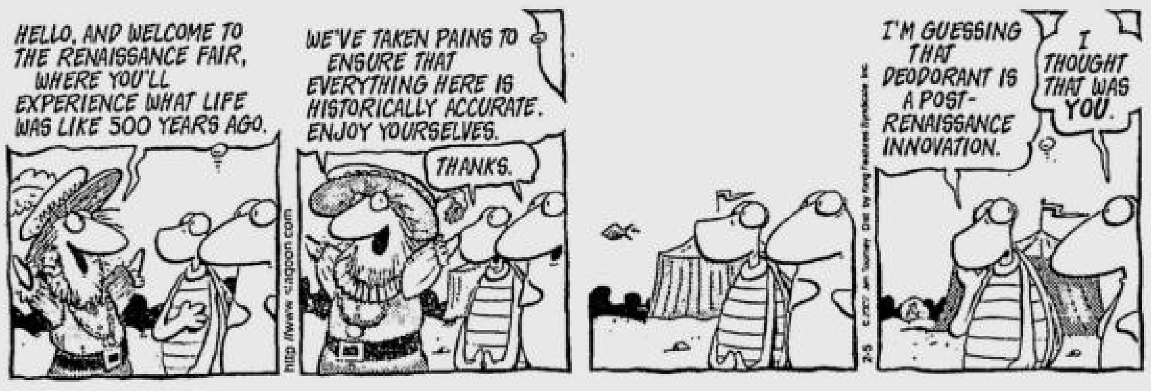
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


THANKS FOR FETCHING THE PAPER, GRIMMY.
SURE, AND BY THE WAY...
THERE'S A FREE SOAP SAMPLE IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
2/5

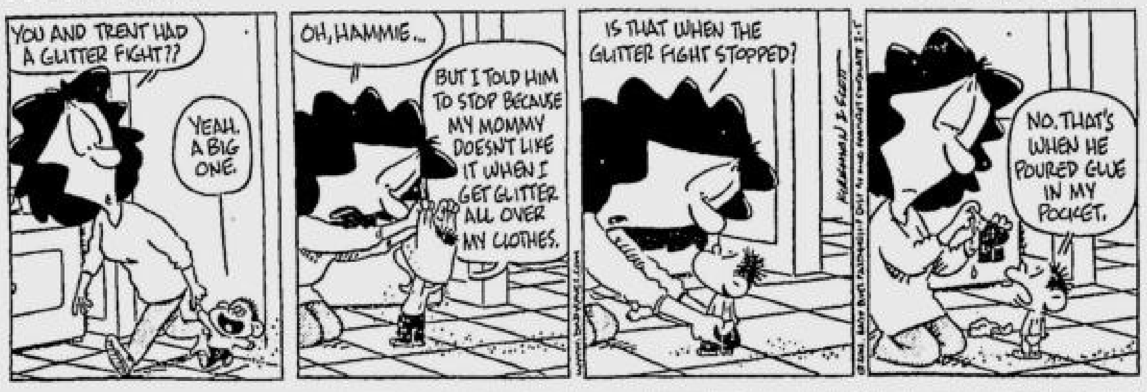
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HMMM...
AAAH!
KLANG
Like HeL-Lo!
OH. JUST TRYING OUT the SLAPSTICK GENRE!
GUESS I WON'T TRY THE BANANA TRICK, HUH?

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HELLO, AND WELCOME TO THE RENAISSANCE FAIR, WHERE YOU'LL EXPERIENCE WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE 500 YEARS AGO.
WE'VE TAKEN PAINS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING HERE IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE. ENJOY YOURSELVES.
THANKS.
I'M GUESSING THAT DEODORANT IS A POST-RENAISSANCE INNOVATION.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU AND TRENT HAD A GLITTER FIGHT??
YEAH. A BIG ONE.
OH, HAMMIE...
BUT I TOLD HIM TO STOP BECAUSE MY MOMMY DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN I GET GLITTER ALL OVER MY CLOTHES.
IS THAT WHEN THE GLITTER FIGHT STOPPED?
NO. THAT'S WHEN HE POURED GLUE IN MY POCKET.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Barbara Hershey, Al Kooper, Bobby Brown, Hank Aaron

Happy Birthday: Expect to have greater concern and more communication with family, friends and neighbors this year. You will be on the go continually; lots of moving about, conversations and correspondence will fill each day. The more you can do to ensure advancement the better. Your numbers are 14, 19, 23, 32, 37, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set your sights on doing better financially. Save, invest and put your money to good use. Listen but don't let anyone else take care of your financial future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The more you do for others the more they will do for you in return. Take advantage of a business deal. You can make a worthwhile investment if you are quick to respond.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deal with work issues today by building confidence in yourself so that your colleagues will believe in you as well. The more you get done the better your chance for advancement.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be in the mood for love. Pursue your romantic partners or put more effort into the relationship that you are already involved in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is not the day to make changes or financial decisions. Put any major deals on the back burner until you feel comfortable that you will make a profit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talk to a friend or relative about your future plans. Use your imagination and you will be able to make the gains you've been dreaming about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take hold of your life and your future and you can move forward in a positive manner regarding your professional direction. Someone you work with may be attracted to you in more ways than one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be up and down emotionally. If you let your partner know where you stand you will have a better chance of sorting out your differences. Future plans can be made.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have plenty on your mind today. Follow your intuition and don't let anyone lead you astray. Complete home improvement projects in order to avoid discord.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your involvement in groups will lead to great connections. Network today and you will prosper in the future. Romantic involvement will lead to interesting new proposals.

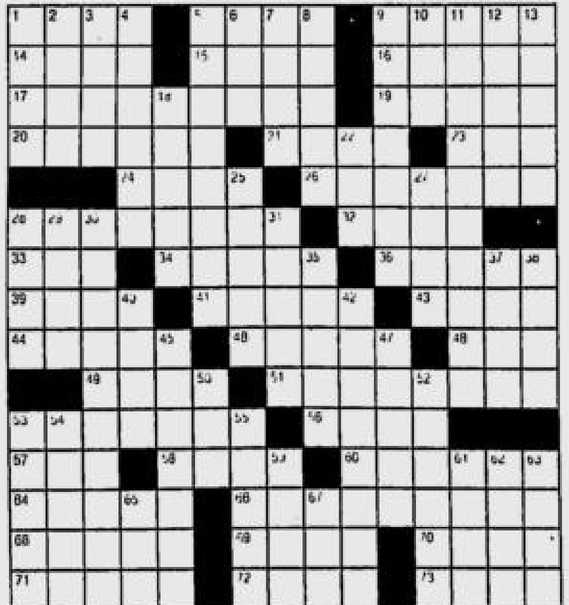
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to take hold of your life and finish what you started way back when. Get busy doing what is necessary in order to turn your life around.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be in the limelight today. Someone you admire will offer you assistance. Take care of those you care most about. Your ability to see the end result will help you to make the right decision.

Birthday Baby: You are well disciplined, logical and practical with everything you do. You are honest, true blue and will fight for the underdog.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

12/20/01

ACROSS

1 Territory
5 Romanov title
9 Defensive-tackle Smith
14 "Venus de __"
15 Goddess of youth
16 Anchor position
17 Snowman's hugs?
19 Vetches
20 Make tidy
21 Thin strip of wood
23 Before, to be brief
24 Food thickener
26 Inane
28 Surfers' landings?
32 Asia-Africa interface
33 Knack for music
34 Alternative energy
36 Some signals
39 Field measure
41 Dinner course
43 Kind of meet
44 Flightless birds
46 City near Dayton
48 Miss. neighbor
49 Present packaging
51 One who loses things
53 Blast furnace
56 Droops
57 Ventilate
58 Columnist's tidbit
60 Launder again
64 Clear frost
66 Blizzard state?
68 Bumbling
69 Largest continent
70 Bridle part
71 Montaigne work
72 Lord's Mrs.
73 Road safety grp.

DOWN

1 Prayer's finale
2 Frozen fog
3 Napoleon's 1814 address
4 Main arteries
5 Grim reaper, to the Greeks
6 Part of a min.
7 The third man?
8 Cut again
9 Rubber duck's milieu
10 Actress Hagen
11 Cold corridor?
12 Funeral stands
13 Church areas
18 Mr. Philbin
22 "__ the wind and nothing more"
25 Unwind
27 Sediment
28 Erode
29 To __ his own
30 Source of cold ones?
31 Oregon's capital
35 Hindu princesses
37 Peaked
38 Train to box
40 Justice Warren
42 Confusion
45 Surfeit
47 "Ragged Dick" author
50 Favorite
52 Teeming
53 __ Hawkins Day
54 Bearings
55 Of the kidneys
59 Tableland
61 On the briny
62 Lose traction
63 Dealer's delivery
65 Profit prophet?
67 Make an offer

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	C	T	S	■	S	P	A	M	■	F	I	L	C	H
L	O	O	K	■	M	A	X	I	■	A	G	I	L	E
M	A	G	I	■	O	I	L	S	■	B	L	E	A	R
S	T	A	N	D	O	N	E	S	G	R	O	U	N	D
■	■	■	■	I	C	E	■	■	R	I	O	■	■	■
W	A	R	M	T	H	■	B	L	O	C	■	D	O	C
A	F	O	O	T	■	D	A	Y	S	■	N	E	R	O
S	I	T	S	O	N	O	N	E	S	H	A	N	D	S
T	R	O	T	■	O	D	D	S	■	U	P	S	E	T
E	E	R	■	A	H	O	Y	■	S	N	E	E	R	S
■	■	■	A	D	O	■	■	S	E	C	■	■	■	■
L	I	E	D	O	W	N	O	N	T	H	E	J	O	B
U	N	D	E	R	■	E	M	I	T	■	A	O	N	E
S	T	A	L	E	■	C	E	D	E	■	S	K	Y	E
H	O	M	E	S	■	K	N	E	E	■	T	E	X	T

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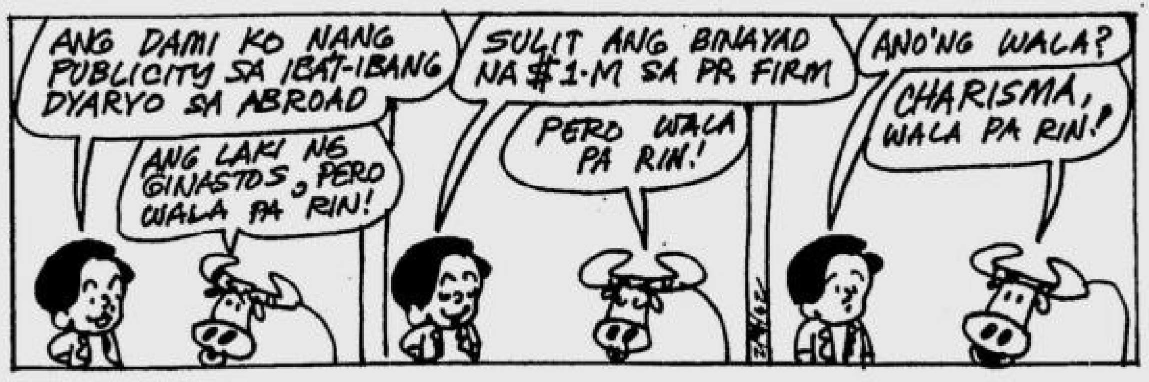
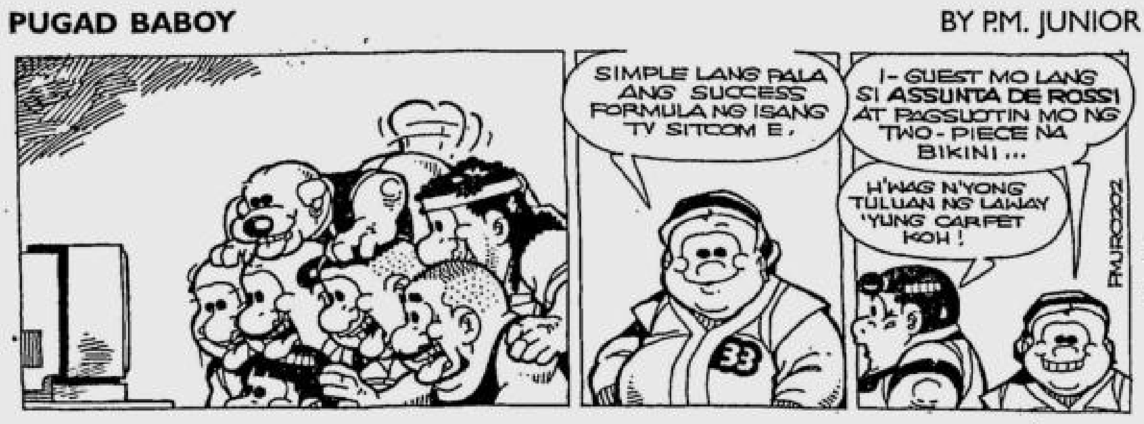
12/20/01

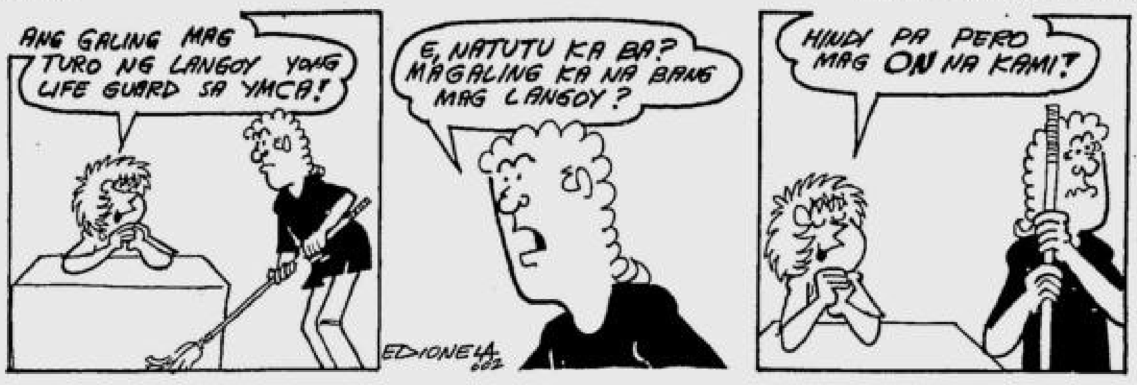
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMI KO NANG PUBLICITY SA IBAT-IBANG DYARYO SA ABROAD
ANG LAKI NG GINASTOS, PERO WALA PA RIN!
SULIT ANG BINAYAD NA $1-M SA PR FIRM
PERO WALA PA RIN!
ANO'NG WALA?
CHARISMA, WALA PA RIN!

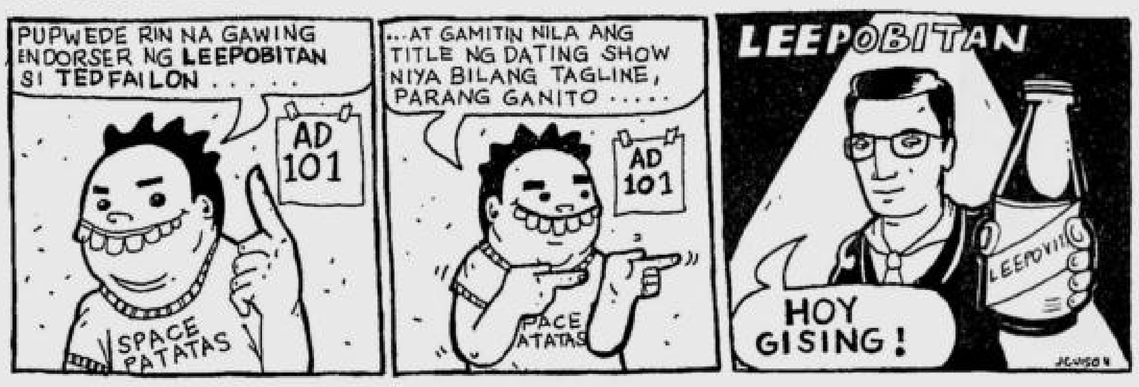
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SIMPLE LANG PALA ANG SUCCESS FORMULA NG ISANG TV SITCOM E,
I-GUEST MO LANG SI ASSUNTA DE ROSSI AT PAGSUOTIN MO NG TWO-PIECE NA BIKINI...
H'WAG N'YONG TULUAN NG LAWAY 'YUNG CARPET KOH!
33
PMJR02202

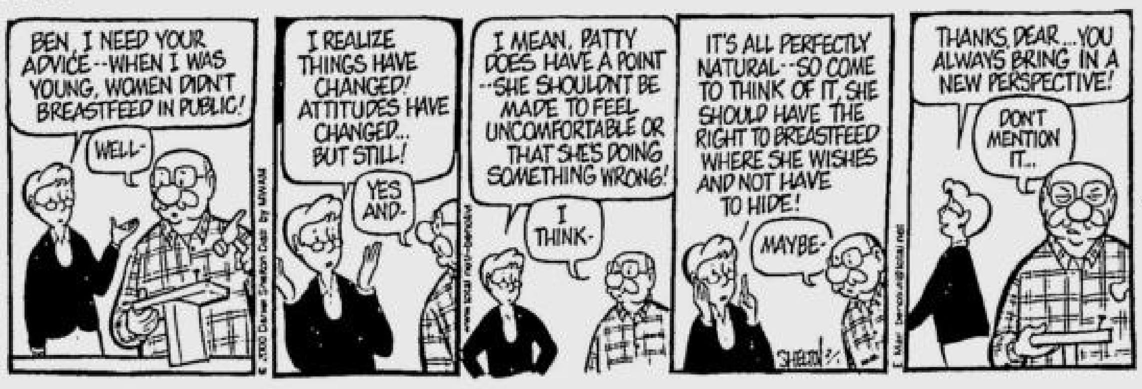
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG GALING MAG TURO NG LANGOY YONG LIFE GUARD SA YMCA!
E, NATUTU KA BA? MAGALING KA NA BANG MAG LANGOY?
HINDI PA PERO MAG ON NA KAMI!
EDIONELA 02

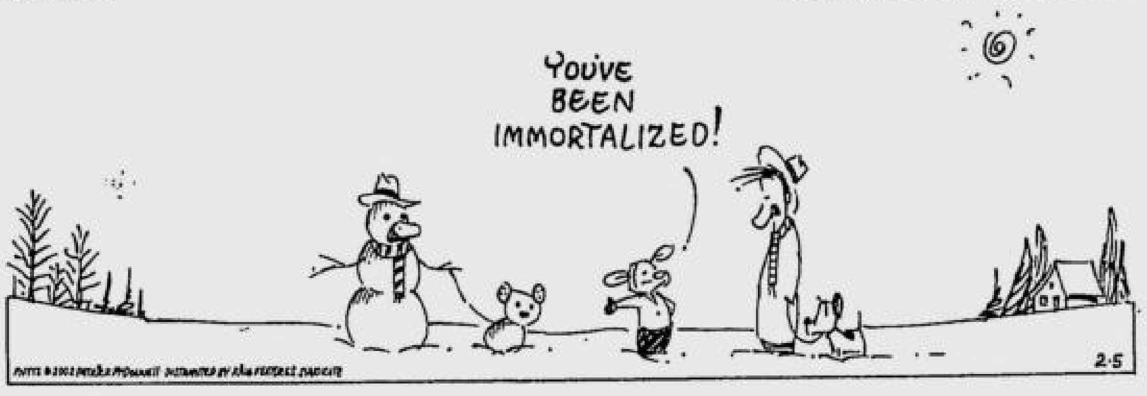
GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


PUPWEDE RIN NA GAWING ENDORSER NG LEEPOBITAN SI TEDFAILON.....
AD 101
SPACE PATATAS
...AT GAMITIN NILA ANG TITLE NG DATING SHOW NIYA BILANG TAGLINE, PARANG GANITO.....
AD 101
LEEPOBITAN
HOY GISING!
LEEPOVIT

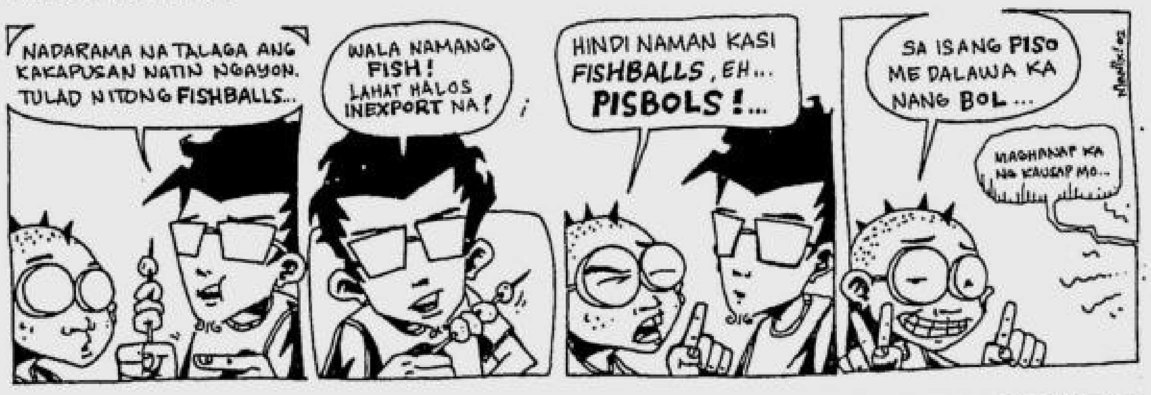
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, I NEED YOUR ADVICE--WHEN I WAS YOUNG, WOMEN DIDN'T BREASTFEED IN PUBLIC!
WELL-
I REALIZE THINGS HAVE CHANGED! ATTITUDES HAVE CHANGED... BUT STILL!
YES AND-
I MEAN, PATTY DOES HAVE A POINT--SHE SHOULDN'T BE MADE TO FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE OR THAT SHE'S DOING SOMETHING WRONG!
I THINK-
IT'S ALL PERFECTLY NATURAL--SO COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO BREASTFEED WHERE SHE WISHES AND NOT HAVE TO HIDE!
MAYBE-
THANKS, DEAR...YOU ALWAYS BRING IN A NEW PERSPECTIVE!
DON'T MENTION IT...

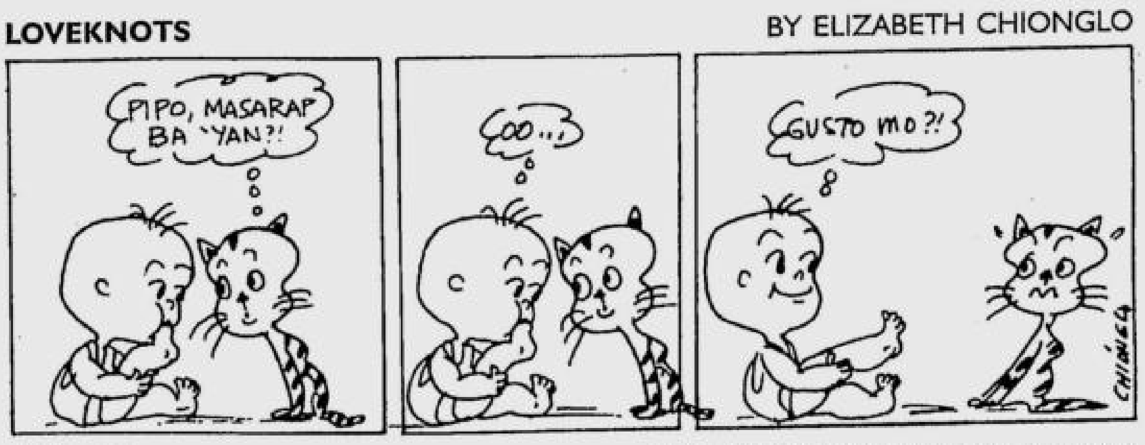
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU'VE BEEN IMMORTALIZED!
2-5

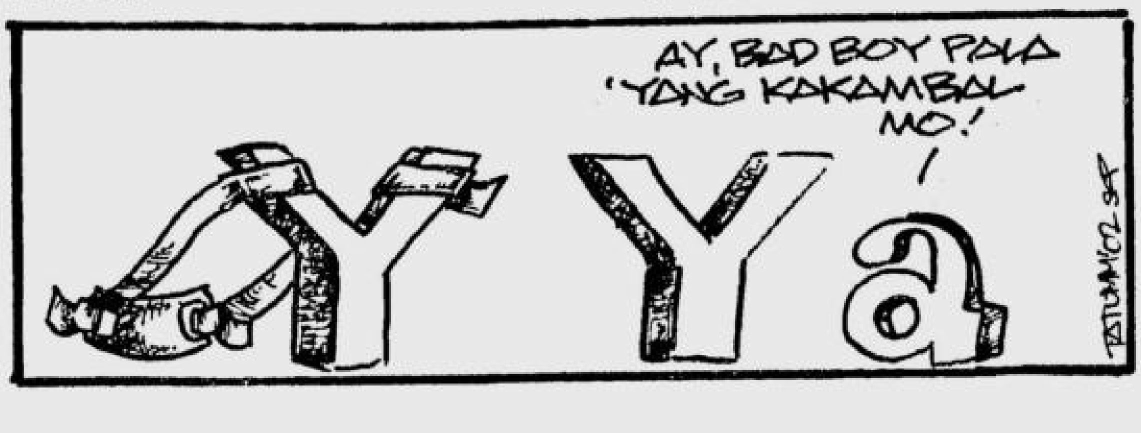
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


NADARAMA NA TALAGA ANG KAKAPUSAN NATIN NGAYON. TULAD NITONG FISHBALLS...
WALA NAMANG FISH! LAHAT HALOS INEXPORT NA!
HINDI NAMAN KASI FISHBALLS, EH... PISBOLS!...
SA ISANG PISO ME DALAWA KA NANG BOL...
MAGHANAP KA NG KAUSAP MO...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO, MASARAP BA 'YAN?!
OO..!
GUSTO MO?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AY, BAD BOY PALA 'YANG KAKAMBAL MO!
AY
Ya

Gina de V's victory tastes mighty sweet

From page C1

sprightly and bubbly than she did five years back. "I go over old pictures and I go, yuck, I was really so fat," she pokes fun at herself. "I've given away my old gowns to my friends and my clothes to charity. *Ayoko nang itago kasi baka, naku, tumaba na naman ako,*" she says.

Gina feels strongly that anyone who is firmly committed can lose the excess pounds and maintain the ideal weight. Nowadays, she doesn't let herself go beyond a 5- to 10-pound weight gain. She sticks to healthy eating, "One full meal a day, but I snack in between," she stresses. She continues to hit the treadmill four times a week. In addition to this, she goes to Marie-France at least twice a week to rev up her metabolism.

Pointers

For those who wish to lose weight, Gina has a few tips that she felt helped her in her battle with the bulge. "First of all, take a hold of your eating habits. Your body is a picture of what you eat. Don't overindulge," she counsels. "Follow a diet to the letter for two weeks. Assess the results and if you're happy then continue."

Secondly, De Venecia advises against weighing yourself on a daily basis while trying to lose weight. "Doesn't happen overnight. Wait around five days and then weigh yourself. The problem is, if you don't see any changes after the second or third day, you'll get discouraged."

Gina also placed an "inspiration" by her night table while she was battling the bulge—a photograph of an extremely fat lady sat by her bedside for a long time. "I would see it first thing in the morning and last thing at night and it reminded me of what I did not want to become," she says.

Lastly, Gina advises taking in lots of fluid, especially water. "Drink a lot of warm water upon waking and before meals so that you will feel full," she advises. For those moments when her tummy feels acidic, Gina nibbles on a saltine cracker to stave off the hunger pangs.

"Oftentimes it's really mind over matter, "she says. Having won the battle and having kept the excess pounds off the last three-and-half years, the woman who now constantly looks and feels good certainly knows what she's talking about.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer. com.ph

Can one be hypnotized to commit a crime?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

ALMOST all the books on hypnosis say that one cannot be hypnotized to do something against his will. If anyone suggests anything like that, the subject immediately goes out of his trance state, or so they say. But I'm not quite sure whether this is correct because there have been numerous cases reported where a person was asked to do something under hypnosis that he would not ordinarily have done in the waking state.

In the Philippines, for example, I have often heard of cases where a person would go up to a store cashier or bank teller and talk to him for a five minutes. The latter would immediately hand over money and later couldn't remember exactly what happened.

I've read of an experiment where a woman under hypnosis was given a real gun loaded with blanks and was told to shoot her mother. She pulled the trigger. Another hypnotized subject put what she was told was arsenic in a friend's food. The substance was really a harmless powder, but she didn't know that.

In "Trilby," a famous 19th-century novel by George du Maurier, a sinister character with strange powers named Svengali hypnotized Trilby, a beautiful young artist's model, into doing everything he told her to do. When he died of heart attack in a fit of jealousy, Trilby was freed from her mental slavery, until she saw an old photograph of Svengali and fell in a trance again. The novel had a tragic ending.

Now that is great fiction, and the name Svengali has became synonymous to anybody who gains control over the will of others for evil purposes. But can this happen in real life? Can a woman, for example, be hypnotized to kill another against her will?

Hypnotized to kill

This was the very question faced by a French court in 1890 over the case of 21-year-old Gabrielle Bompard, who was accused of killing bailiff Toussaint-Augustin Gouffe under the direction of her lover, Michel Eyraud. Gabrielle had been described as completely amoral, prone to vices of all sorts and would do anything somebody told her to. She was also an exceptionally easy subject of hypnosis.

Her family doctor, named Secroste, testified that "it sufficed to stare at her for a few minutes and she fell into catalepsy." In that state, "she gave no sign of pain when he drove a pin into her wrist, obediently ate a raw potato when told it was a delicious fruit and got tipsy when told that a glass of water was champagne."

In an article about her case titled "Hypnotized to Kill," which appeared in the July 1986 issue of Fate magazine, author Michael Goss said, "Throughout her life Gabrielle had always managed to captivate men and (more important) make them ignore her character flaws. Her chief gift was to give them the impression they could do what they pleased with her. This is crucial to the allegation that her plastic nature was unable to resist ideas given to her by dominant man, especially those ideas she received under hypnosis."

When Gabrielle and Eyraud were arrested separately, both were eager to incriminate each other. Eyraud said Gabrielle took part in the crime willfully while she wanted to convince the jury that the blame solely belonged to Eyraud because she had no control of what she did.

At that time there were two dominant schools of thought concerning hypnosis. One postulated that only hysterics could be hypnotized and there had never been a single crime committed under hypnosis. The opposing school said that in hypnosis the subject's critical faculties were by-passed and hypnotic crime was feasible.

Eyraud was executed before an enormous crowd on Feb. 3, 1891. Gabrielle Bompard eluded the guillotine and was sentenced to 20 years in prison at hard labor, but was freed after only 13 years.

Raped and ordered to kill

In 1936, a sensational criminal case involving hypnosis rocked Germany. Here's the amazing story as related in the book "Mysterious Powers" by Colin Wilson:

"A hypnotist named Frantz Walter liked to pose as a doctor. One day, boarding a train to Heidelberg, he entered a carriage occupied by a young woman. Walter talked to her, and discovered she was on her way to see a doctor about stomach pains. Walter sympathized, told her he was a doctor, and invited her to have coffee with him. She felt frightened and wanted to refuse, but when Walter took her hand, she found she could not.

"Under hypnosis, she was raped by Walter, who then ordered her to become a prostitute and to give him her earnings. When she later married, he hypnotized her into making several attempts on her husband's life. The husband eventually reported her behavior to the police, and a police doctor, Ludwig Mayer, recognized some of the symptoms of hypnotism. He managed to de-hypnotize her and unlock her memories of her ordeals, which Walter had ordered her to forget. Walter was tried, found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison."

A modern Svengali, indeed. A case of life imitating art, or the other way around? Whatever it is, hypnosis has its dangers, especially in the hands of an amateur or someone with a sinister motive.

Address letter to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Course for parents and professionals to focus on adolescents with special needs

THE PHILIPPINE Children's Medical Center and the Center for Developmental Intervention Foundation Inc. is offering a postgraduate course, "Issues of Adolescents with Special Needs," at the PCMC conference room on Feb. 6 and 7.

The two-day interdisciplinary postgraduate course—the first to focus on adolescents with special needs—is geared to professionals in the field of health, social service, medicine and education, and parents and family members of the adolescent with special needs. It aims to provide a platform for examining the lack of awareness and understanding of key concerns like psychosocial, psychosexual and educational/vocational issues, as well as career options for the adolescent.

Advocates that include parents, health and allied health practitioners, educators, policymakers and media have been invited to an open discussion on the major issues facing the adolescent with special needs and their families.

As the population of adolescents with chronic medical illnesses, epilepsy, mental retardation, etc. grows, the demands for appropriate services increase. Currently, there are a limited number of resources in the local setting since many professionals do not have the knowledge and experience to recognize, much more provide, appropriate interventions for this unique group.

Call 924-6601 to 25 local 325/307.

Striving for a level of calm in a world of dis-ease

MODERN technology spins at breakneck speed and the world is forced to move in step with what science calls progress. The result for us humans is a life that may seem more convenient, but it is one that is more hurried, more harried.

ANGER
PAIN
FRUSTRATION
HEARTACHE
JED E.

ILLUSTRATIONS: JED ESTRADA

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

It is no wonder then that a new enemy has emerged in recent times as the leading cause of illnesses such as heart disease and cancer. Health analysts call it stress. In the course of going about one's daily business, whether that be in an office or at home, it is no wonder that exhaustion caps one's day.

Understanding the energies that surround us can, to a certain extent, minimize the damaging effects of stress on our health. These are energies we absorb, and not all of them are good. Like sponges, we unwittingly store the negative emotions in our subconscious that we have allowed to manifest during our day. We are talking about anger, frustration, pain and heartache—feelings that, if left unchecked, can and will burden our minds and hearts, consequently dimming our auras and ultimately weakening our body's defense against sickness.

And, like prizefighters, we must fight back.

Let us not wait for our defenses to crumble. Instead, I propose we shore up our line of defense by putting on an armor. Detachment from the world by striving for a level of calm can create a buffer between us and our stressors. It's like a wall between us and the people and situations that may eventually do us harm, if we allow them.

The expression, "it's all in the mind," could never have been more true than today, because all disease comes from a sense of *dis*-ease, a lack of calm and the absence of balance. Here is a simple de-stressing technique that may help:

Candle calm

Choose a quiet place. Light a white candle (careful not to leave it unattended). Play a disc or tape of nature sounds (the sound of water or the ocean is best). Sit with your back straight on a chair or lotus position on the floor. Focus on your breathing as you look at the candle's flame. Relax. Forget your problems and pain. Embrace the silence. Talk to your inner self and say, "I am calm, I am peace. Nothing and no one can harm me." Stay in meditative bliss for at least five to seven minutes, and work up to 10-15 minutes.

> Here are simple and natural de-stressing techniques to help you shoo bad energies away

As with any craft, practice makes perfect. So don't be frustrated if your mind is jammed in a traffic mess of thoughts. That's okay. Just keep trying. In the end, you will do this without effort. It will come naturally, like a good habit.

Going natural

The path that leads to feeling good is more often than not the same path toward looking good. A way of life that adopts the goodness of natural medicine can easily give one that natural high. Honest!

Care to make plants, herbs and spices a part of your regular health and beauty regimen? Here's a natural cleansing formula for the body. It will not only detoxify your system externally but internally as well with the use of the age-old, tried-and-true apple cider vinegar, which is a natural remedy against colds, flu, diarrhea, cough, gout rashes and boils, to name a few.

Cleansing tea: 1 pot hot water, 5 tbsp apple cider vinegar, 2 tbsp cinnamon, 2 tbsp honey. Mix ingredients in a pot. Drink one cup of tea every hour, or once upon waking up in the morning before breakfast and just before sleeping.

Soak bath: 1 c apple cider vinegar, 1 c baking soda. Mix the apple cider vinegar and baking soda in a tubful of comfortably warm water. Do not attempt to enter the tub if water is too hot, as this will make your body more acidic, thus weakening it.

You may sip your tea while in the bath. Take your time. Think relaxing thoughts. Make this a monthly detox must-do. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, once said, "Let food be your medicine." If he was right yesterday, how can he be wrong today? As we learn from the past, we illuminate our present. Love and light, my friends!

E-mail the author at lifestyle@inquirer. com.ph

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What is laparoscopy and is it covered under MEDICard's HMO program?
Laparoscopy is an out patient (one-day) surgery in which a thin telescope-like instrument is inserted into the abdominal cavity through the belly button. Using the instrument, a laparoscope, the physician is able to visualize the abdominal and pelvic contents. Laparoscopy can also be used for the surgical treatment of cholecystectomy or in the removal of pelvic adhesions, ovarian cysts, some types of uterine fibroids, swollen tubes and most gynecologic problems that require surgery. The limits provided for this procedure is subject to the pre-existing illnesses coverage. Under the standard program, up to P 20,000 per member per year and for large group and corporate clients, may vary to be as high as the maximum dreaded disease limit.

Meet your MEDICard Team

The pretty face belongs to Dr. Rosalinda Alejandria-Bautista, MEDICard accredited specialist based in Capitol Medical Center. Dr. Bautista specializes in Ear, Nose, Throat-Head and Neck Surgery where she earned her residency from East Avenue Medical Center. She also subspecializes in Audiology-Hearing and Dizziness. She has been in the practice of her profession for more than 6 years and has been a member of MEDICard's medical service team for more than 4. Doc Rosalinda is a Fellow to the Philippine Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Philippine College of Surgeons and a member to the Philippine Medical Association. She spends most of her free time with her husband, Dr. Reginald Baustista and their kids Regine, Ronald and Ralph. Visit Dr. Bautista for your consultation needs every Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 4 PM, on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 PM, and on Saturdays from 12 noon to 3 in the afternoon.

After graduating from Dela Salle College of Medicine, Dr. Virginia Paruñgao-Crisostomo chose to specialize in Pediatrics at Medical Center Manila and later subspecialized in Pediatric Endocrinology with residency training from UP-PGH. Today, she is based in Perpetual Help Medical Center in Las Piñas and with her 16-year experience in her field, she is considered to be one of the most valued members of our medical service team. Visit her for your consultation needs, drop by her clinic at room 407 of the Medical Arts Bldg., every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 12 noon and on Saturdays from 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

Dr. Rhodora De Lara-Valenzona is MEDICard's accredited Internist in Perpetual Help Medical Center, Biñan. Dr. Valenzona finished Medicine from UST and her residency training for her specialization and subspecialization training in Nephrology from Makati Medical Center. Currently, she holds a Diplomate degree to the Philippine Society of Nephrology and a Fellowship degree to the Philippine College of Physicians. She is also a valued member to the Philippine Medical Association. Visit her for your consultation needs, drop by her clinic every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

Dumb things you should not do in a gym

From keeping medical secrets to exercising even when in pain—these are points for fitness dummies to ponder

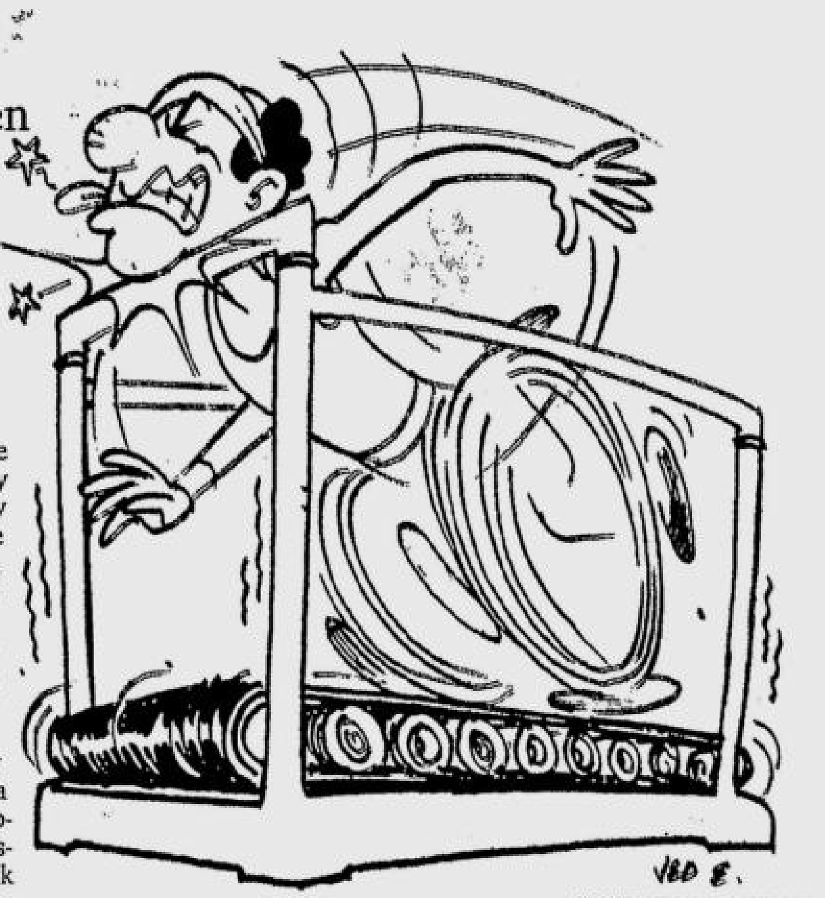


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Part I

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

LAST week's column must have struck a familiar chord among readers. I received many anecdotes about accidents or arguments due to cell phone use in the gym. Using a cell phone while exercising isn't the only dumb thing that you can do when working out. Here is a list of other dumb things that you shouldn't do in a gym. As you will see, common sense is sometimes not so common.

Be secretive about a medical condition. You can exercise even if you have a medical condition like hypertension, diabetes or osteoporosis, but the fitness staff has to be aware of it so they can design a safe program for you or refer you to a health professional who is more qualified to take care of you.

Keeping quiet about a medical condition is stupid and dangerous so why do some people do it? One reason is they are in denial about their condition and don't like telling others about it. Another reason is they're scared the gym won't accept them.

Equally dumb is to stop medication for your condition without telling your doctor or the fitness staff. If your doctor changes your medication, you should also inform your trainer because some medicines can change the way your body responds during exercise.

Be absent-minded on a treadmill. Of all the cardiovascular machines available in a gym, electronic treadmills are the machines you should have the most respect for. They have powerful motors that drive the belt that moves under you. That moving belt can unceremoniously throw you off in a split second if you're absent-minded. For example, we had a client who bent down to tie his shoelaces and was totally surprised when the treadmill threw him off. Another lady bent down to pick up a water bottle that had fallen, lost her balance and fell off.

It's dangerous not to know where the emergency stop button is. That button is exactly what it says it's for—an emergency. Like if you develop a cramp in your calf. You should also wear your glasses if you can't see the control panel buttons clearly. We had a lady who kept pressing the wrong buttons so the treadmill sped up faster than she could handle. She couldn't see the stop button and forgot that she could straddle jump on top of the side foot panels. In a panic, she hanged on to the handrails for dear life and shouted at the top of her lungs for help.

Lastly, don't leave a treadmill running if you have to go to the bathroom or answer a phone call. An unsuspecting person might hop on thinking that the treadmill is turned off and fall right on his face.

Be a know-it-all. Some people act like they are experts in fitness or nutrition when they're not. Truly, a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. It's bad enough they don't want to listen to trained fitness instructors and run the risk of hurting themselves with unsafe exercise techniques, but they also tell others in the gym what to do. So they don't just hurt themselves with their know-it-all attitude, they also risk hurting others.

It's totally irresponsible to convince others in the gym to take diet pills or weight-loss supplements. It's reckless because you don't know what underlying medical conditions people might have that might endanger their lives if they take the supplements you're recommending.

For example, diet pills containing stimulants like ephedrine can be deadly for people who have high blood pressure. Many people don't even know they have hypertension because they don't have the symptoms, which is why the condition has been called the "silent killer."

Be gullible. It's just as dumb to be so gullible that you fall hook, line and sinker for testimonials from gym classmates about exercises or supplements. Just because a specific exercise program or supplement "worked" for your classmate doesn't mean it will work for you. It might even hurt you.

Always check with a trained fitness instructor about exercise programs and with a nutritionist or doctor about supplements. At the very least, find out all you can about the supplement from the Internet or other reliable resources. The only one responsible for protecting your health is you.

Be careful, too, about listening to supplement advice from fitness trainers. It's outside the ethical boundaries of fitness professionals to recommend supplements for weight loss or performance. I'm not talking about established nutritional guidelines from health organizations, like advice to take 1,000 mg of calcium for pre-menopausal women or to reduce saturated fat in the diet. That kind of advice is okay for fitness professionals to dispense. What's not okay is advice to take supplements that contain stimulants, laxatives, diuretics or unproven herbal concoctions. Always keep in mind the famous but sad case of Anne Marie Capati, a New Yorker with mild hypertension who had been taking an herbal weight-loss supplement containing ephedrine and caffeine for three months before she died of a stroke while working out in the gym. Guess who recommended the supplement to her. Her personal trainer.

Exercise with pain. Here's something dumb I've done myself in the past. The result? A shoulder injury that haunted me for years and now restricts me from doing certain activities. The reason behind this dumb behavior is a fear that you'll be told to stop exercising and you'll lose all your hard-earned weight loss or muscle definition. Recently, a friend was told by her physical therapist to stop doing upper body exercises for a while because of a nagging elbow tendonitis problem. Her reaction? A fear her triceps would turn to mush during the rest and rehab period. Luckily, she listened to reason (I scared her into following her therapist's advice) and she's now back to her regular exercise routine.

Some people just deny that they're in pain and continue to exercise until the pain is so bad they have to go see a doctor. By then, what should have been a simple problem has turned into a chronic condition that requires a long rehabilitation process. So in the end, the thing they've feared the most (stopping exercise) becomes an absolute necessity. The smart thing to do is listen to your body. If something hurts, stop. Find out why. It could be mean something as simple as easing up on the intensity of the exercise, a minor correction in technique, or changing your shoes.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a fitness seminar on Feb. 23 at the PCED University Hotel, UP Diliman Campus. Personal training topics are "All about the Rotator Cuff," "Basics of Exercise Program Design" and "Understanding Your Back." Group exercise topics are "Pilates—The Stott Way," "Latin Aerobics," "Leadership Skills" and "Funky Jabbin' (Kickboxing)". For beginner instructors, there will be a two-hour session on "Exercise Physiology." Call 842-0567 for more details.

For questions and past articles or exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Supine hamstring stretch

STRETCHES the back of the thighs (hamstrings), which are usually tight in many people. Tight hamstrings can contribute to lower back pain by pulling the pelvis and spine into a kyphotic or "flat back" posture. Tight hamstrings are also more prone to getting strained or pulled during sports or everyday activities.

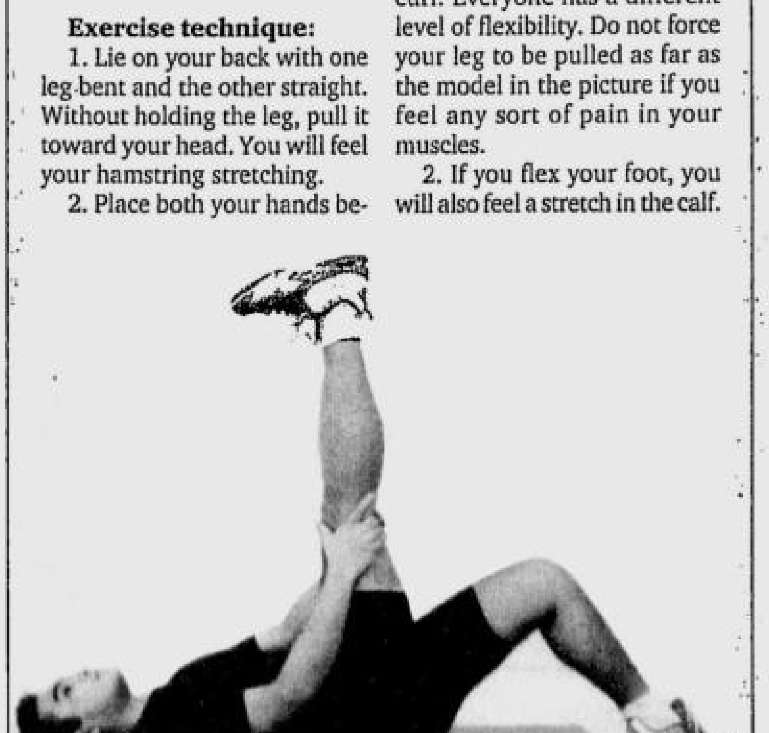
Equipment:
Exercise mat.

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with one leg bent and the other straight. Without holding the leg, pull it toward your head. You will feel your hamstring stretching.
2. Place both your hands behind your thigh and slowly walk your hands up toward the ankle. This will gently pull your leg even more toward your head. Hold the stretch for 15-30 seconds. Continue to breathe normally.
3. Do the other leg.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your leg as straight as you can without feeling any pain. Keep buttocks on the floor. Do not allow your back to curl. Everyone has a different level of flexibility. Do not force your leg to be pulled as far as the model in the picture if you feel any sort of pain in your muscles.
2. If you flex your foot, you will also feel a stretch in the calf.



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ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

INVESTITURE

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V

Father of Computer Education in the Philippines

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V
First University President
AMA Computer University
6:30 PM, February 5, 2002
PICC

Humble beginnings

In the late 70's, Dr. Aguiluz perceived that the power of computers would change the world. He was then the sole distributor of Computer Land's micro computers in the Philippines. Ironically, it took him six months to sell his first unit. In the face of all the odds, he reflected on realities and discovered that he had a very good product but "the market was not ready." Lesser men could have been overwhelmed by frustration but Dr. Aguiluz remained steadfast and seized the opportunity to educate the market by establishing the first computer school in the Philippines, the AMA Institute of Computer Studies in 1980.

"AMA came about by reason of necessity," recalls the amiable pioneer of computer education. "I had to educate the market," he adds, "to make Filipinos realize the advent of technology that would change their lives."

But setting up a school did not prove easy. AMA was short of cash during the first semester of regular operations. There were only 13 students whose payment for tuition was barely enough to sustain operations. Though in a difficult fix, he did not give up.

In a field where advertising is considered unnecessary, he launched an aggressive marketing and information campaign. He placed advertisements in newspapers.

He ran the school as a business. But however unorthodox for an entrepreneur to engage in education, he developed an institution of high-quality and world-class learning. He looked at computer education as an excellent product that had to be skillfully delivered to the market. As he was immersed in the academic field, he realized that education is a lifetime commitment.

"Once you set up a school, there is no turning back," he says.

Dr. Aguiluz also understood early on that he needed to develop partnerships with the leading technology companies that eventually led to the partnerships with Microsoft, Cisco Systems, Avaya, and others. Through international certifications, AMA produced globally competitive graduates highly proficient in the latest technologies, thereby gaining immediate employment in the most prestigious companies. The partnerships also built for AMA its distinct reputation in the academic community.

To date, AMA is the only university that has more than 200 campuses in the Philippines and other parts of the world with an approximate student population of 150,000. Dr. Aguiluz opted for such an arrangement because "we have to come closer to the market and deliver quality education at the least possible cost." By bringing the schools to where the students live, more enrollees can avail of computer education at highly reduced costs.

> ***He saw the bright opportunity for fellow Filipinos equipped with computer skills to grab the manpower market in the dawning of the age of information technology. The vision stokes the embers of his desire to be at the forefront of global transformation for the benefit of his people.***

It was also clear to Dr. Aguiluz that computers would play a decisive role in a burgeoning knowledge economy.

The Family Man

Dr. Aguiluz was born to a family of public servants whose sterling performance and untarnished reputation remain as their most lasting legacy to the Filipino people. His father, Amable M. Aguiluz, Sr., served as National Treasurer and Auditor General during the administration of President Diosdado Macapagal. Dr. Aguiluz established the first computer school in the Philippines in honor of his father and therefore adopted his initials AMA. His mother, Ester R. Aguiluz, molded many young minds as public school teacher and served the public as Government Corporate Auditor.

Fourth in a brood of eight children, Dr. Aguiluz grew up in a closely-knit family guided by the love of their parents, a love that he never failed to reciprocate in his own tender way. He formed the AMA Foundation that provides scholarships to poor but deserving students. When his mother was ill, he attended to all her needs. Accepting God's will when she passed away recently, he committed to establish the Ester R. Aguiluz Memorial Medical Center under the AMA Medical School in Cavite, named after his mother whom he loved so much.

Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Aguiluz devotes quality time to his wife, three children and two grandchildren. His only son, Amable C. Aguiluz IX, and daughters Ma. Angela and Ma. Clara, grew up in such a convivial environment. ACA IX, President of the AMA Education System, recently received the prestigious Agora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship for pioneering the establishment of medium-scale business franchise stalls all over the Philippines. Ma. Angela serves as Treasurer of the AMA Board of Trustees and performs a very critical role in the daily operations of the company.

continued on page 2

AMA Computer University™

Asia's 1st and Largest IT University®

AMA Computer University is undoubtedly the first and largest IT university in Asia with a student population of 150,000 and more than 200 campuses in the Philippines and other parts of the world.

As the pioneer of computer education in the Philippines, it was the first to offer courses in Computer Science and Computer Engineering, the first to offer e-learning, the first to provide one-to-one student-to-computer ratio, the first computer university to offer Mechatronics, the first school in the Philippines to have received ISO 9001 Certification, the first premier education partner of Microsoft, the first and exclusive training partner of Avaya, and the first to branch out to key cities and municipalities in the Philippines and other parts of the world.

To date, only AMA has developed on-line learning in the Philippines. It is also the first school in the country that is developing University towns comparable to Harvard, MIT and the most prestigious academic institutions in the world. Its founder, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, is also committed to establish a hospital and a medical school in honor of his mother Ester R. Aguiluz.

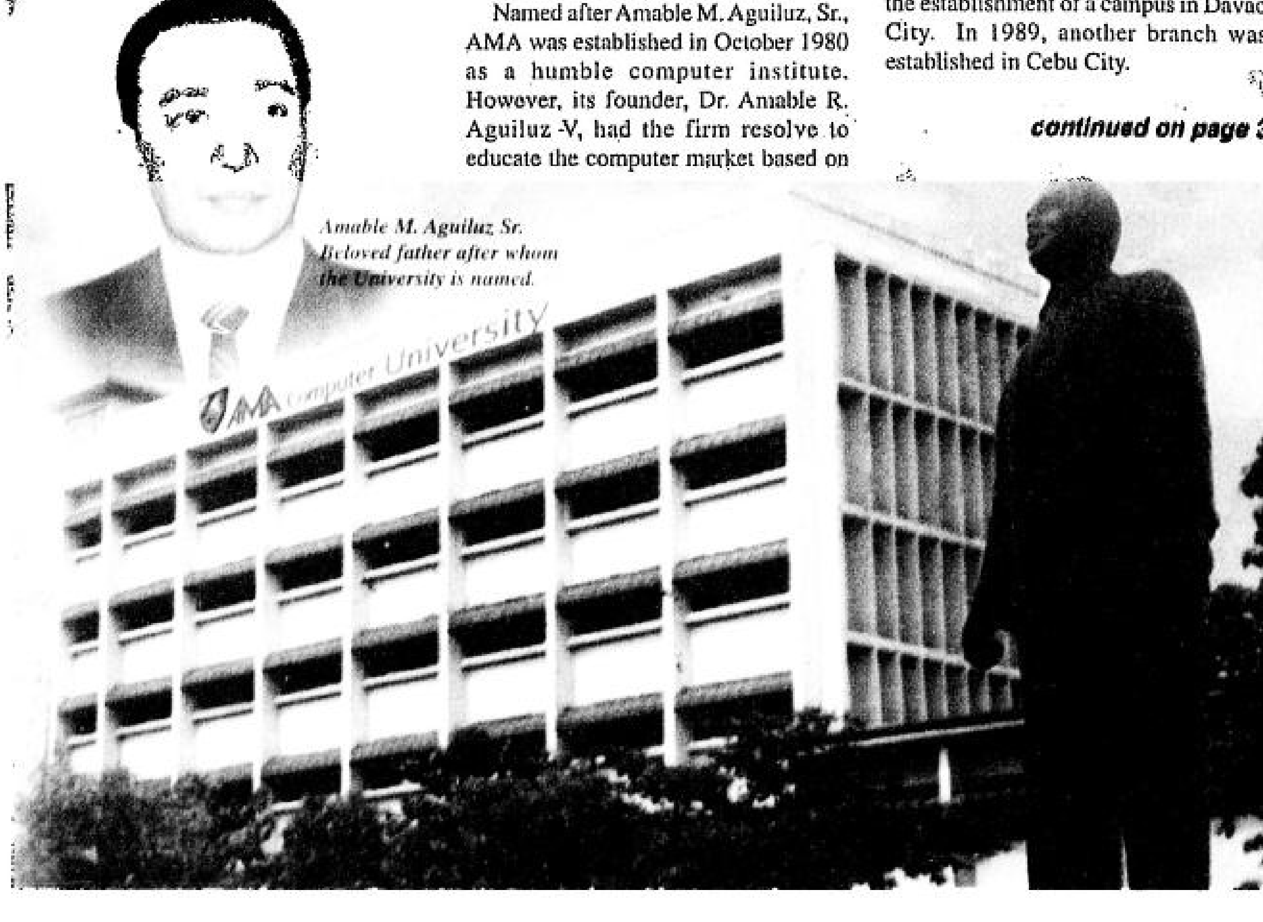
Since its establishment in 1980, AMA has graduated more than 140,000 students who are now gainfully employed in top IT companies worldwide, a development that made a name for the Philippines as the leading provider of computer manpower in Asia.

Realizing the vision

Named after Amable M. Aguiluz, Sr., AMA was established in October 1980 as a humble computer institute. However, its founder, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, had the firm resolve to educate the computer market based on his experience in computer sales. He was into computer distribution sometime in 1978 as sole distributor of Computer Land's micro-computers in the Philippines. Recognizing the great potentials of computers as the wave of the future, he discerned the very urgent need to educate his fellow Filipinos and make Philippine IT manpower globally competitive. The phenomenal success that is AMA proves him right.

The process of expansion became irreversible as AMA's skills training and curricular programs attracted its target market. In 1986, AMACC opened another campus in Quezon City. In 1987, the AMA Computer Learning Center was established to provide short courses that would equip students with basic computer skills. In the same year, expansion moved to the provinces with the establishment of a campus in Davao City. In 1989, another branch was established in Cebu City.

continued on page 3


Amable M. Aguiluz Sr.
Beloved father after whom the University is named.

Messages

It is with distinct pleasure that I convey my warmest felicitations to the administration, faculty and students of the AMA Computer University as they celebrate the investiture of their First University President, Dr Amable R. Aguiluz V.

I congratulate AMA Computer University for having been granted University status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the highest honor bestowed upon an academic institution. After 21 years of providing quality IT-based education to the Filipino youths, capped by its having earned an ISO-Certification from the Societe Generale de Surveillance and winning various IT International competitions, the University Status comes as crowning glory to the AMA Computer University.

Education plays a major role in developing our youth and expediting our national recovery efforts. A strong educational system adaptable to the challenges of the 21st century benefits our people and nation as it helps in spawning bright and dynamic individuals who can make substantial contributions to nation building.

In this regard, I am confident of the capability of Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V and the capacity of the AMA Computer University to provide quality educational services to the Filipino youth. As we tackle the challenges of the new economy, I am certain that I can count on this organization in raising the quality of education in the country, particularly in computer education, and in deepening our country's reservoir of effective leaders and nation builders.

I call upon the administration and faculty of AMA Computer University, under the leadership of Dr Aguiluz, to strengthen their dedication to developing our youth into responsible achievers and leaders. Let us continue providing quality education and working for youth development as noble investments in our nation's future.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V on his investiture as the first president of AMA Computer University.

I am proud of Dr. Aguiluz's achievements in the field of training and development and of his wise vision in investing in people's knowledge which is the wealth for further development of the friendly people of the Philippines.

I wish Dr. Aguiluz, his family, and the entire AMA Computer University continued success.

Khalifa S. Al-Khalifa

H.H. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa
Prime Minister of the State of Bahrain

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the AMA Computer University on its having been granted University status by the Commission on Higher Education.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation of the excellent relations that the AMA Computer University and the Department of Foreign Affair have forged.

The appointment of Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V as First University President comes as no surprise to those in the international community. He is a well-known educator and a respected businessman.

I am confident that the collaboration between the DFA and AMA will continue to be fruitful.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines

Our warmest felicitations to AMA Computer College, Q.C. for having been granted University Status by the Commission on Higher Education. We likewise congratulate Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V on the occasion of his investiture as its First University President.

Having fully complied with the requirements for conversion to university status, the challenge AMA Computer University now faces is maintaining and even improving on your institutional strengths. We urge you therefore to continue to strive harder in providing quality and excellent Information Technology education to your students. We also urge AMA to play an active role in the country's quest for IT leadership in the Asia-Pacific Region.

We hope that your 21st Founding Anniversary will be an occasion for reflection and joyous thanksgiving

Mabuhay!

Ester A. Garcia
Chairperson

The Father of Computer Education in the Philippines, father to the employees and officers of AMA, and father to your own family, today is your moment of glory

Many have realized the need for computers but you are the first Filipino who dared to venture into computer education when computers at that time were very expensive and unpopular. The institution you established expanded into a network of computer schools all over the Philippines and various parts of the world. Your pioneering achievement earned for AMA and our nation the reputation as the first and largest IT university in Asia.

Your investiture as the First President of AMA Computer University is an indelible milestone in the history of the computer school you founded two decades ago. Among hundreds of academic leaders in the Philippines, you are the only university president who went through the process of nurturing your own school to fame. By offering high-quality and world-class education, AMA achieved its distinguished stature in the academic community.

As your son, I am filled with overwhelming joy for your achievements and deepest respect for revolutionizing the way education is delivered in the Philippines. As your colleague in the academe, I know you are bound to pioneer in other areas of education and information technology in our country and the world. As the anointed leader of the third generation, I express my unwavering support and confidence in your leadership. Your whole family salutes you as the most brilliant achiever of the Aguiluz clan

AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
President, AMA Education System

Mechatronics Laboratory at AMA Computer University.

Another First: BS Mechatronics

AMA Computer University scores another "first" with the establishment of a new University degree course: BS Mechatronics.

The new course is the synergistic combination of precision mechanical engineering, applied robotics, artificial intelligence and device automation & control. With myriad applications in manufacturing, defense and security systems transportation/ communications and many more, the course promises to be the new horizon in job generation for the near future.

The Mechatronics Lab pictured above will help students grasp the rudiments of the new science, developing new knowledge and skills that will make AMA students even more globally competitive in the careers now being developed.

THE DOCTOR AT THE UN. Former Head of the Asia Y2K Regional Council, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V addresses the anticipated consequences of the Y2K bug at the United Nations in New York. With him are Mario Tagarinski of Central Europe and Susan Page of Australia.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V
Chairman

Cielo C. Aguiluz
Trustee

Amable C. Aguiluz IX
Trustee

Christine K. Aguiluz
Trustee

Ma. Angela C. Aguiluz
Trustee

Albert L. Buenviaje
Trustee

Vicente R. Acsay
Trustee

AMA Foundation, Inc.

THE COUNCIL OF ADVISERS

Hon. Onofre Corpuz, PhD
Former Secretary
Department of Education,
Culture and Sports

Hon. Leticia Ramos-Shahani
Presidential Adviser on
Culture and
Former Philippine Senator

Hon. Angel Alcala, PhD
Former Chairman
Commission on
Higher Education

Hon. Victor Macalincag
Former Undersecretary
Department of Finance

AMA Foundation, since its establishment in 1985, has been broadening educational opportunities for Filipinos, programs that would provide economically disadvantaged but deserving faculty and students easier access to quality education.

The foundation has launched a "Student Loan Program" at AMA Computer University through the loan facility of AMA Bank. It has allocated P400 million for the loan program that is being offered at a low interest rate per annum on a favorable 10-year-to-pay scheme. It will grant financial assistance to qualified enrollees to give them the chance to develop into educated, responsible and productive citizens of the country.

The program has managed to maintain more than 200 scholars every trimester through the generosity of the Aguiluz family and other compassionate supporters and believers of the foundation.

The foundation is determined to help less fortunate parents, faculty and students cope with the high cost of living these days while availing of a competitive degree education at the first and largest IT University in Asia.

Furthermore, it has also initiated myriad free training seminars and workshops for public school teachers and students to broaden their knowledge and proficiency in Information and Communications Technology.

AMA Computer University
Planning Session for SY 2002-2003
The First Computer University

Some 5,000 employees of AMA are taken care of by Dr. Aguiluz V through his corporate team of officers, regional heads and school directors here posing for a photograph after their planning session held at Subic.

Dr. Amable... from page 1

The Corporate Family Man

Dr. Aguiluz is well loved and respected by his constituents. In his moments of grief, his employees become more than his relatives in mourning with him. In his moments of glory, he shares with everyone the fruits of his achievements.

He has institutionalized the *People First Policy* in the company that "only satisfied employees can satisfy customers." He personally ensures that all AMA employees are well provided for financially through competitive compensation packages, intellectually by providing continuous training and education, and spiritually by nurturing their faith. Employees reciprocate this gesture by performing tasks to the fullest of their abilities. Dr. Aguiluz strongly believes that the key to the success of AMA is the people who work for the company.

Charismatic Public Servant

Following the tradition of public service in the family, Dr. Aguiluz also served in the Cabinet as Presidential Adviser for Computer Education in 1998. Subsequently, he was appointed as Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Year 2000 (Y2K) with the gargantuan task of raising public awareness on the Y2K problem. His innovative approach allowed companies to gain Y2K readiness long before they were plagued by the problem.

The leadership of Dr. Aguiluz caught the attention of the United Nations. He was invited to chair the UN Y2K Steering Committee composed of representatives from the US, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Japan and the Philippines. He then became a member of the International Y2K Coordinating Center with 172 member countries based in Washington, DC.

Eventually, he was appointed as Chairman of its Asian Regional Council composed of 43 member-countries. It was a body created by the United Nations and funded by the World Bank to oversee activities of countries worldwide in making their computer systems Y2K compliant. As chairman, he exchanged views and shared insights with representatives of various nations. He delivered a paper on Y2K Disaster Preparedness before the UN General Assembly, a paper that proved critical and vital as it was approved and adopted by all the UN member countries.

With the same passion for service to his fellow Filipinos, he organized the Second Y2K Global Summit in Manila that gathered computer experts, professionals, government workers, and academicians in the Philippines and all over the world to synchronize solutions to the Y2K problem.

Yearning for New Knowledge

The Father of Computer Education in the Philippines holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines, a Master's in Business Administration from the University of the East, and a Ph.D. from the Columbia College in the United States.

In preparation for bigger social responsibilities, he armed himself with managerial skills from the Top Management Program held in Bali, Indonesia by the Asian Institute of Management in 1991.

That same year, he also attended an Executive Development Program at the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania.

From Wharton, Dr. Aguiluz V went to Harvard University. The only Filipino among top CEOs in the world, he is set to graduate this year from the Owners / Presidents Management Program, a three-year program specially designed by the Harvard Business School.

His vigorous efforts at upgrading the quality and standards of education in the Philippines through computers earned for AMA Computer College the stature as the only Asian member-country of the American League of Colleges and Universities (ALOCU), an organization of 35 prestigious American schools.

Excellent Achiever

His excellent achievements did not go unnoticed. In 1991, he became the first and only Asian who served as Vice-Chairman of the American League of Colleges and Universities (ALOCU).

For his dynamic vision and professional excellence, the Philippine Marketing Association honored him with the prestigious Agora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship in 1995.

The 1996 *Parangal ng Bayan* recognized the excellent performance of Dr. Aguiluz as a Philippine educator and gave him the Golden Scroll Award for Education. For his noble goal of extending computer education even to residents of the remotest towns in the Philippines, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) awarded him the *Kabalikat sa Laang Bisig Award* in 1997.

Finally, the distinguished achievements of Dr. Aguiluz V in the field of education recently earned for him the position of Chairman of the International Federation of Universities of Science and Technology.

PROGRAMME

Processional	
Entrance of Colors	**AMACU Corps of Cadets**
National Anthem	**AMACU Choir**
Invocation	**Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD**
University Confirmation	**Dr. Ester A. Garcia** *Chair, Commission on Higher Education*
Raising of University Colors	**Albert L. Buenviaje** *Member, University Board of Trustees*
Reading of the Appointment	**Amable C. Aguiluz IX** *President, AMA Education System*
Presentation of Medallion	**Cielo C. Aguiluz** *Treasurer, Board of Trustees*
Presentation of Mace	**Amable C. Aguiluz IX** *President, AMA Education System*
Investiture and Administration of Oath	**Dr. Ester A. Garcia** *Chair, Commission on Higher Education*
Greetings	
Family	**Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz II, MD.** *President, Norwalk Medical Center, California*
Alumni	**Michael P. Del Carmen** *BS Computer Science '89* *President, IM2 Corporation* **Sean Gerard Villoria** *BS Computer Science '86* *President and CEO,* *Garsol Mgmt. Innovators, Inc.*
Industry	**Richard Francis** *Country President, Microsoft, Inc.*
International Academic Community	**Dr. Donald B. Ruthenberg** *Chairman, American League of Colleges and Universities*
Education	**Hon. Raul S. Roco** *Secretary, Department of Education*
Government	**Hon. Franklin M. Drilon** *President, Senate of the Philippines* **Hon. Teofisto T. Guingona** *Vice President, Republic of the Philippines* **Her Excellency** **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** *President, Republic of the Philippines*
University Address	**Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V** *President, AMA Computer University*

Lani Misalucha, John Lesaca, Mari Kaimo and The PPO Lighten Up Investiture Ceremonies

Sultry diva Lani Misalucha with friends John Lesaca, pop violinist, and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will provide the premiere musical entertainment for "The Investiture." TV Celebrity Mari Kaimo will, in turn, guide the proceedings as Master of Ceremonies.

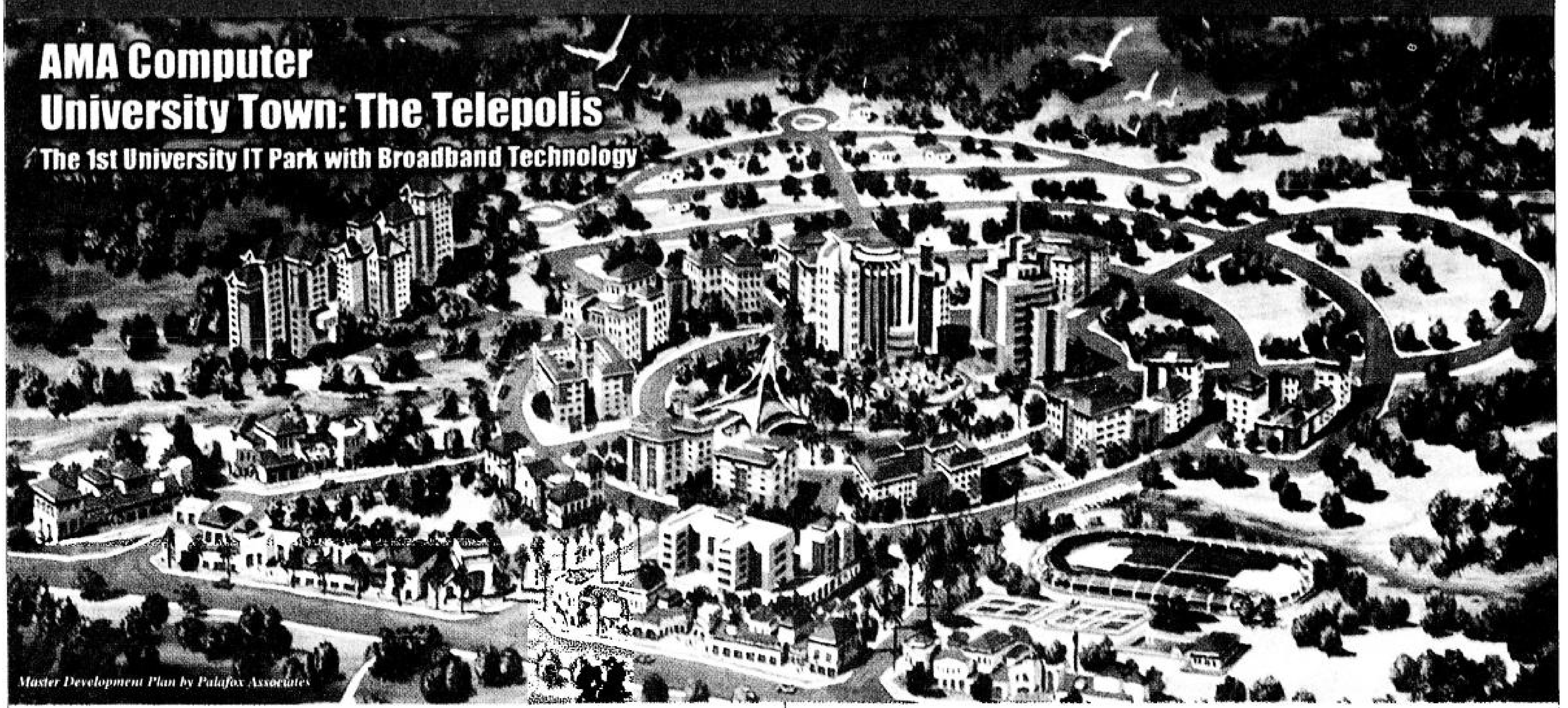
Investiture Committee Chairman Karim L. Bangcola promises a night to remember both for the honoree, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, First University President, and his honored guests, friends and colleagues in education.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V with the Executive Committee

AMA Computer University Town: The Telepolis

The 1st University IT Park with Broadband Technology


Master Development Plan by Palafox Associates

The AMA Computer University Town is a 50-hectare property in General Trias, Cavite. It draws inspiration from old universities in the western world that spurred rapid development in the Host Township and created neighborhoods that are safe, livable and pleasant.

The AMA Computer University Town will serve as another type of multi-use development, a primary institutional complex in a park-like setting. A network of open space and neighboring infrastructures are laid out primarily to encourage the end-users to walk instead of using motorized vehicles.

Key Features

Interactive Hub

A network of open areas and sheltered places supports IT activities through utilities that allow hooking up to the internet service and provides power supply for computer notebook users. The hub also pertains to other areas like the Internet cafes, bars, clubhouses, cooperative houses or student joints.

IT Center

As the architectural centerpiece, the IT Center is envisioned as an IT Park of e-learning and global online university. It serves as the University icon, symbolizing AMA's vision towards excellence in IT education and technology.

Ester delos Reyes Aguiluz beloved mother after whom the hospital will be named.

Institutional Area

The Ester delos Reyes Aguiluz Memorial Medical Hospital accentuates the Institutional Area. It incorporates the different buildings, facilities and equipment of the University that are dedicated to education.

Town Center

A township in itself, the Town Center will serve the more commercial needs of the university such as retail, entertainment, neighborhood services and computer-related activities which can be found within walking distance from any point of origin.

Residential Community

The faculty, students, executives or those who are interested to experience the life of total convenience in a university town will have choices from single-detached to multiple family dwelling units.

AMA Is Again No.1!

SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS

MOST RECOMMENDED COMPUTER SCHOOL: RANK 1

Base: [illegible] who gave any school a rank of 1

	[illegible]	NCR	Luz	Vis	Min	ABC	D	E
AMA	40%	53%	44%	28%	31%	42%	42%	29%
STI	15	18	14	12	15	20	16	11
La Salle	2	4	3	1	0	7	2	0
Data Center / Data	2	0	4	0	0	0	2	2
Tarlac State U	2	0	4	0	0	0	2	0
UP	2	6	1	1	1	8	1	1
Univ. of Cebu	1	0	0	6	0	1	1	2
UST	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	0
PUP	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	3
Univ. of San Carlos	1	0	0	5	1	0	1	1

NOTE: Ignores responses with less than 1%, figures to Q Pakiranggo po ang inyong mga sagot mula sa pinaka-irerekomenda ninyo pababa, na ang "1" ay nangangahulugang "pinaka-irerekomenda"

One of the country's most reputable research and survey services, SWS, in its latest survey again tags AMA as the "Most Recommended Computer School" in the Philippines.

The new findings underline AMA's continuing preeminence in IT-based education in the country. Deeper probing ascribes this consistent hold on the top position to three main reasons: a) advanced / good quality / high standard of teaching and teachers; b) well known / the best / the first / most popular; and c) easy to find a job / successful graduates.

In another research study, conducted by the most read international IT magazine MIS (Managing Information Strategies), AMA figured as the one and only privately owned Philippine educational institution to be included in **Asia's top 100 IT** users placing number 78 to San Miguel Corporation's 79th place.

The First University President on Future Challenges

Looking to the future, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V advises against complacency. "We should not rest on our laurels, as my late father used to say," he says as he details AMA's plans to explore new terrain.

For the next ten years, AMA will face squarely the possibilities of physical expansion by establishing campuses in different parts of the world. It will be at the forefront of computer education as it offers new courses relevant to Filipinos and the global community and fortifies its role as the center of information and communications technology in Asia. AMA will also strengthen ties and establish new linkages with the most prestigious academic institutions abroad to sustain its distinguished stature in the global IT community.

Having pioneered in e-learning, AMA will establish the global online university to make its academic programs accessible to students from all over the world. The online university will feature broadband access, chat rooms, discussion groups, and video conferencing, creating a virtual community of students, well-known professors, and IT practitioners around the globe. Students can gain access anytime, anywhere thereby making self-paced learning a reality. Through the online university, AMA will play a dominant role in the field of e-learning.

President Aguiluz V will bolster the status of AMA as a university by prioritizing research and publications, curriculum development, faculty training, academic linkages and extension services. His goal is to make AMA Computer University different by going beyond the standards set forth by its peers. AMA will live up to its reputation as the first and largest IT university in Asia and sustain its stature at the pinnacle of academic distinction.

AMA Computer University... from page 1

International Operations

Computer learning centers have also been established in Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Thailand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Guam, Singapore and Los Angeles, USA to service the needs of overseas Filipino workers and their families.

These developments led to the formation of what became known as the AMA Education System (AMAES) including the AMA Basic Education and AMA Telecommunications and Electronics Learning Center which were founded in 1996. Part of the AMAES schools is the ABE International College of Business and Accountancy, which was founded in 1999. In 2000, the Science School was established.

Capping the success of AMA as an educational institution is the conferment of university status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Components

The *AMA Education System* has several components with diverse areas of concentration.

The *AMA Computer College* is now called the *AMA Computer University (AMACU)*. It offers computer-based degree education with 24 undergraduate courses. It also offers Master's degrees in Business Administration, Computer Engineering and Computer Science and a Doctorate degree in Business Administration.

The ***AMA Computer Learning Center*** offers a comprehensive IT curriculum with two-year diploma courses and dual diploma programs that are globally recognized. Graduates are assured of getting a high-paying job after two years of education.

The ***AMA Telecommunications and Electronics Learning Center*** offers full curriculum courses in telecommunications and electronics technology, a pioneer in the Philippines. Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, students earn maximum units which can be credited towards college education. Its dual training system allows students to earn two diplomas in one program.

The ***ABE International College of Business and Accountancy*** is the first in the Philippines to provide an internationally accredited curriculum in business and accountancy. Its business courses focus on e-business and the new technologies to make the students' learning more relevant to the new global economy.

The ***AMA Science School*** provides pre-school, elementary and secondary education to the youth. It recently established a partnership with the University of California—Berkeley to acquire exclusive use of the Great Explorations in Mathematics and Science (GEMS), program that makes learning more fun and a direct experience rather than a purely textbook approach.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERS WELCOME AMA COMPUTER UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Dr. Lawrence Summers
President
Harvard University

Dr. Richard Atkinson
President
University of California

Dr. Donald Ruthenberg
President, American League of Colleges and Universities (ALOCU)

Ivy League university presidents led by **Dr. Lawrence Summers** of Harvard University, **Dr. Richard Atkinson** of the University of California, **Dr. Takeshi Sasaki** of the University of Tokyo, and **Dr. Donald Ruthenberg**, founder of the American League of Colleges and Universities (ALOCU), have extended their felicitations to **Dr. Aguiluz V** for achieving the highest honor given to an academician.

AMA Computer University's (AMACU) international business partners like Microsoft Corporation, Cisco Systems, SmartForce, Avaya Communications, National Computing Center of the United Kingdom (NCC-UK) and other business associates from Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangladesh, and the South East Asian regions are to witness the said rites.

Dignitaries such as Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Vice-President Teofisto Guingona, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia, Education Secretary Raul Roco, CHED Chairperson Dr. Ester Garcia and Presidential Assistant for Education Dr. Mona Valisno are to grace this significant event in their vow to support Dr. Aguiluz in shaping the future of Information and Communications Technology in the Philippines through quality education.

"I add my warmest felicitations to Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V for having been appointed as the First President of the AMA Computer University. With him, I share the vision of the transformation of AMACU, together with other Philippine institutions, into a Center of Information and Communications Technology in Asia." - Former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"Trully, the AMA Computer University has made a mark in the academic community. Known for its excellence in IT education and your having been awarded the university status is a fitting recognition of your academic excellence and leadership." — Senate President Franklin M. Drilon

"Congratulations to the AMA Computer University. This is the milestone in the vision of your founding President, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, a well-respected academician recognized as the Father of Computer Education in the Philippines." – Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia

Furthermore, the Asian Institute of Management, University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, among other top educational institutions in the country, commend Dr. Aguiluz V for being the first president of the pioneer and largest IT University in Asia.

The investiture rites include Dr. Esther A. Garcia, CHED Chairperson, to deliver the university confirmation AMA Computer University and lead the investiture and administration of oath. Amable C. Aguiluz IX, President of AMA Education System (AMAES), will read the appointment of Dr. Aguiluz V as university president. Cielo C. Aguiluz, AMAES Treasurer and member of the Board of Trustees, will present the university president's medallion.

Newscaster and TV personality, Mari Kaimo, will be hosting the event. Dinner follows the formal ceremonies with the complete 20-piece ensemble of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and music diva, Lani Misalucha, entertaining about 2,000 guests.

University President ARA V: 10,000 Microsoft Certified Professionals Guaranteed This SY

AMA Educational System (AMAES), as the **"Premiere Education Partner"** of Microsoft, is committed to produce 10,000 Microsoft Certified Professionals from its successful graduates this year.

Furthermore, a People and Skills Development Center has been developed in Bahrain to train overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) on IT in the Middle East. AMA Computer University and Microsoft Corp. have committed to help achieve the goals of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in increasing foreign labor investments and uplifting the literacy of more than 1.5 million OFWs in IT with full support from the Prime Minister of Bahrain, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa (who recently visited the country to witness the signing of AMACU and Microsoft Partnership) and Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona.

These are in further pursuit of the noble aspirations of Dr. Aguiluz V in broadening the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) venues in the country as government institutions and the private sector now realize their role in facilitating great economic and academic progress in the country.

Microsoft-AMA-Bahrain. AMA Computer University President Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V and VP and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona with His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the State of Bahrain where the University plans to build an "e-learning Hub for the Middle East" primarily to benefit more than 1.5 million Overseas Filipino Workers in the region. With them are, from left Amable C. Aguiluz IX, President of AMA Education System and Richard Francis, Microsoft Philippines country manager

International Partnerships

As a university that meets global standards, AMA keeps pace with developments abroad by establishing partnerships with the most prestigious technology companies and international institutions.

AMA Microsoft Premiere Education Partner

MICROSOFT. As the only Premier Education Partner of Microsoft, AMA is able to provide its students first crack at the latest Microsoft software. By integrating Microsoft into its curricula, students are prepared for Microsoft certification programs such as the Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) and the Microsoft Certified Professionals (MCP).

AVAYA communication
The Former Enterprise Networks Group of Lucent Technologies

AVAYA. AMA has likewise been appointed by Avaya Communications as the exclusive Authorized Training Center (ATC) for the ASEAN region. The training center delivers industry-standard training and diploma courses for the Systimax Structured Cabling System. The technology covers knowledge in sending voice, data, video and image over copper and fiber optics.

Cisco Systems
Networking Academy

CISCO SYSTEMS. Cisco Systems appointed AMA as its regional academy for the Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) in the Philippines. By passing the CNAP, students earn the prestigious Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA) and / or the Cisco Certified Networking Professional (CCNP) for building, designing and maintaining small to medium-sized computer networks.

SmartForce

SMARTFORCE. The strategic agreement between AMA and SmartForce USA provides additional depth and richness to the current curriculum for information technology courses and degree programs. This allows students to use the SmartForce courseware materials via the e-learning approach for ICT skills training.

University of California Berkeley
Lawrence Hall of Science

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY. AMA Basic Education forged a partnership with the University of California-Berkeley, which produces the Great Exploration in Mathematics and Science (GEMS), a multi-media instructional material.

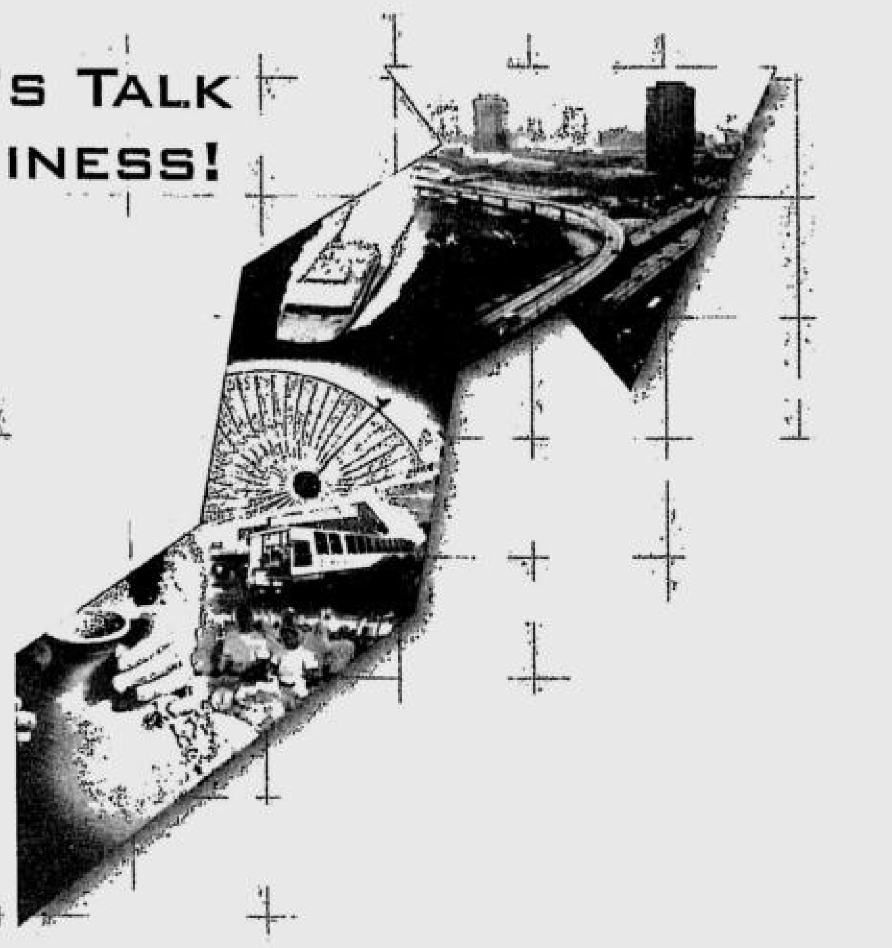
ALOCU. The American League of Colleges and Universities, an organization of 35 prestigious schools in the US, recognizes the pioneering role of AMA in computer education in the Philippines. It provides AMA with technology transfer, course accreditation, and a vibrant faculty exchange program.

NCC education
The Global IT Campus

NCC-UK. The tie-up of AMA with the National Computing Center of the United Kingdom (NCC-UK) entitles students to gain various London-based diplomas. The International Diploma in Computer Studies (IDCS) and International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies (IADCS) are international diplomas recognized in more than 40 countries worldwide.

Registered Company • Societe Enregistree
ISO 9001
SGS

Finally, as an affirmation of the quality of education that AMA provides, the Societe de General Surveillance awarded the prestigious **ISO 9001** Certification to AMA in January 1999, recognizing it as a world-class educational institution.



LET'S TALK BUSINESS!

DBP LENDING PROGRAMS
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BETTER LIFE

DBP continues to help push the country's progress through its various lending programs. Entrepreneurs, big or small corporations, local government units (LGUs), and private financial institutions may avail of loan facilities for their various development activities.

Manufacturing, Utilities, Construction, Transportation, Telecommunications, Power, Hotels
- For purchase of plant and/or equipment, and related working capital and lease financing
- Loan size: up to 70% of project cost
- Repayment term: up to 8 years

Small and Medium Enterprises
- For importation of capital goods, spare parts and intermediate goods for small and medium-sized private enterprises
- Loan size: up to 100% of the cost of capital goods and spare parts
- Repayment term: plant & equipment--up to 15 years; working capital--up to 7 years

Importation
- Loan size: up to 85% of the total contract price involving the importation of equipment and services from Denmark, Italy, Norway, Germany, and the United Kingdom
- Repayment term: up to 10 years

Maritime (Including Shipping, Shipbuilding and Port Development)
- For the modernization and expansion of shipping projects, conversion or modification of vessels, upgrading of technical standards/classing of vessels, acquisition of machinery and equipment and necessary services, shipyard modernization/expansion, construction of modern and safer type vessels, port development projects, maritime education, and lease purchase
- Repayment term: up to 15 years

Environment
- For pollution control projects (pollution treatment/abatement; pollution prevention, waste minimization or clean technology), projects that promote efficient use and/or management of natural resources, establishment of an Environmental Management System (EMS) and certification under ISO 14001, environmental infrastructure projects under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) arrangement or its variants, and investments in equipment to monitor emissions or effluents
- Repayment term: up to 15 years

The DBP Lending Programs are part of the many banking services that DBP offers to help bring progress to all sectors of the economy.

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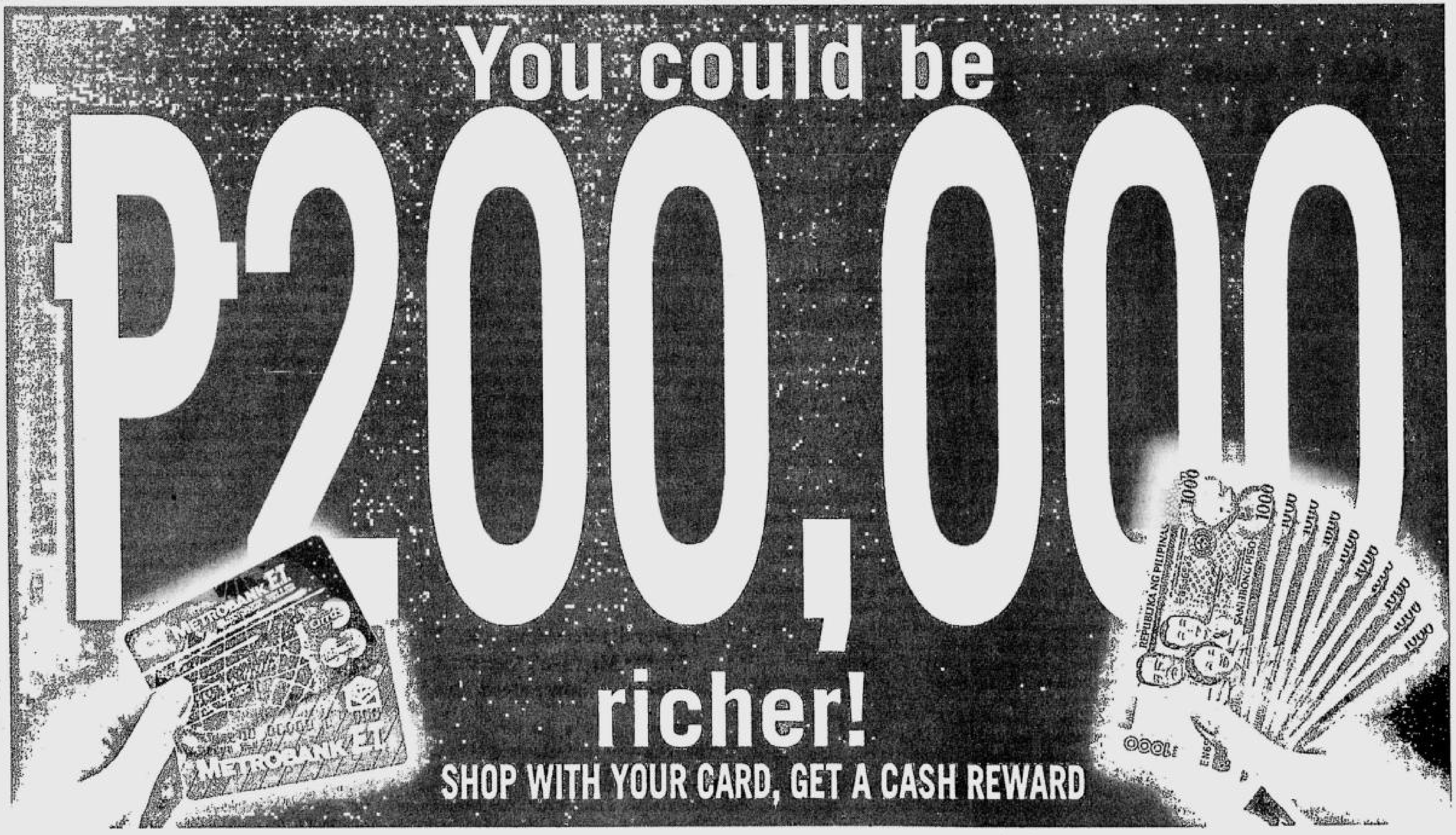
DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

Pinoy 2004

For inquiries visit the DBP Head Office at Makati Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or the nearest DBP Branch in your area.
Or call DBP Head Office—818-9511 / DBP Corporate Banking Sector—815-0908•813-1295•893-7351•815-0906•893-6940•893-6932
Or e-mail info@devbankphil.com.ph



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